BUFFY™
THE VAMPIRE SLAYER
SEASON 11
LIBRARY EDITION
JOSS WHEDON
CHRISTOS GAGE
REBEKAH ISAACS
GEORGES JEANTY
MEGAN LEVENS

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Buffy the Vampire Slayer™

Into every generation, a Slayer is born; a Chosen One. They alone will wield the strength and skill to fight the vampires, demons, and the forces of darkness; to stop the spread of their evil and the swell of their number. They are the Slayer.

BOOM! STUDIOS™

Buffy the Vampire Slayer™

SEASON 11

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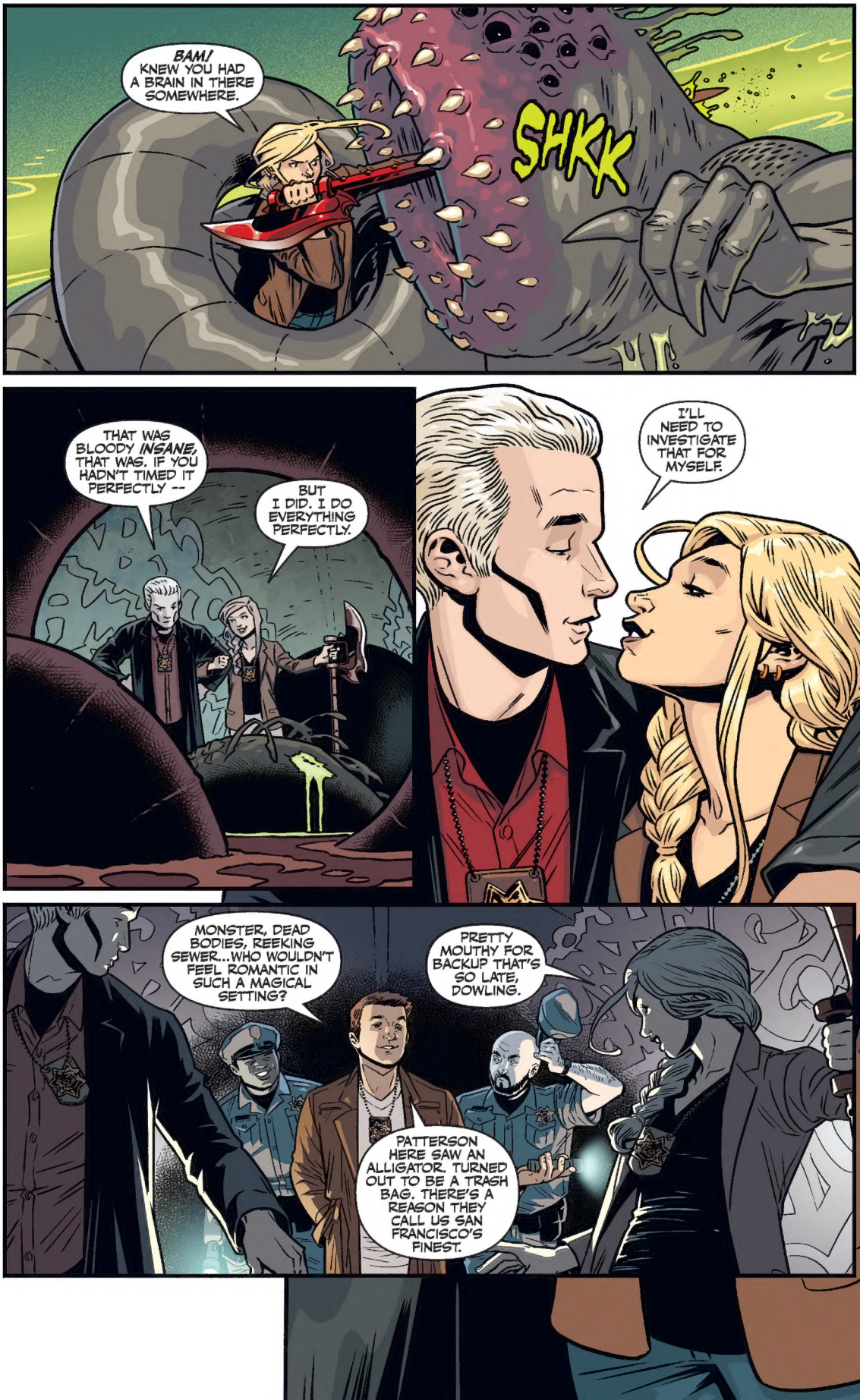
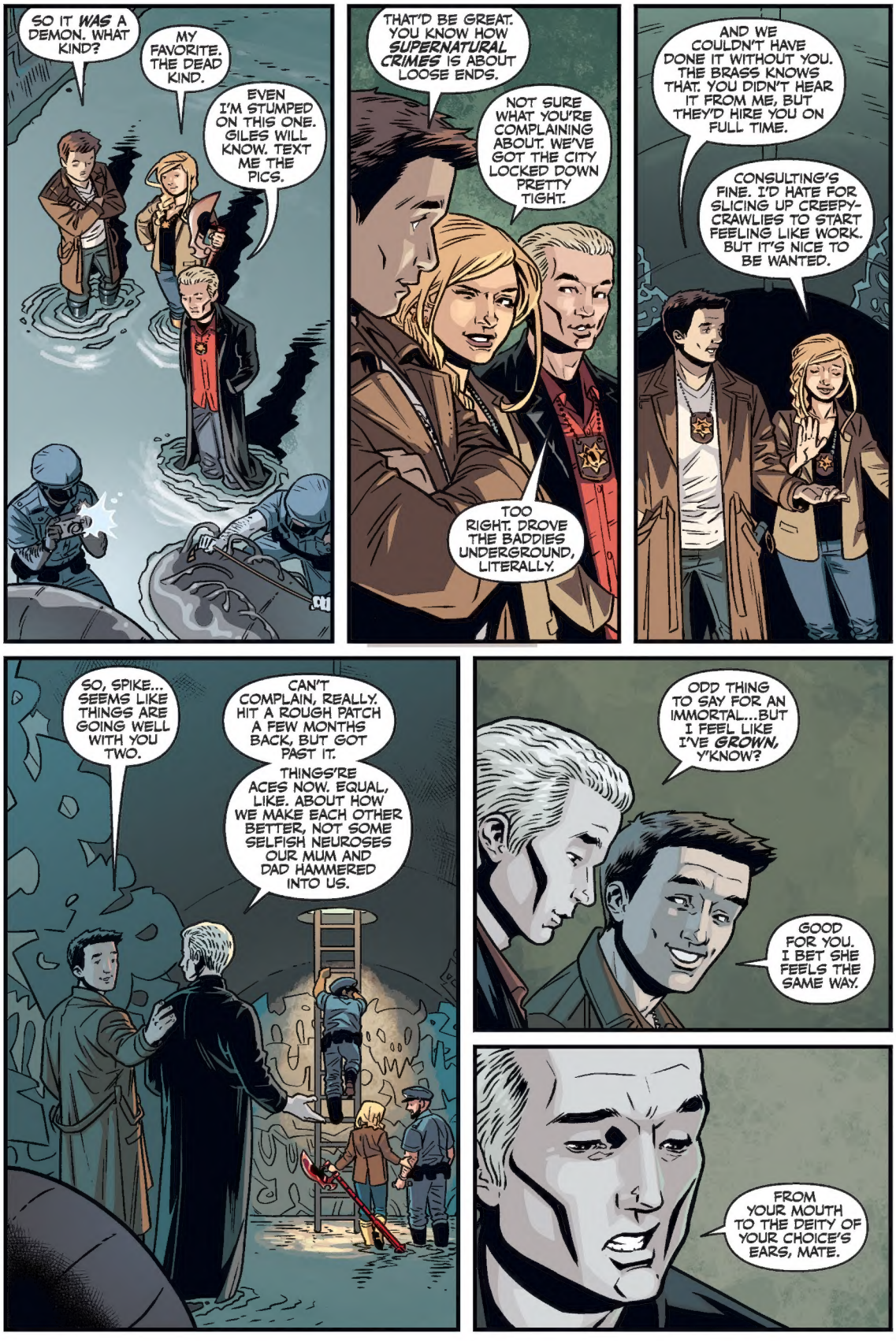
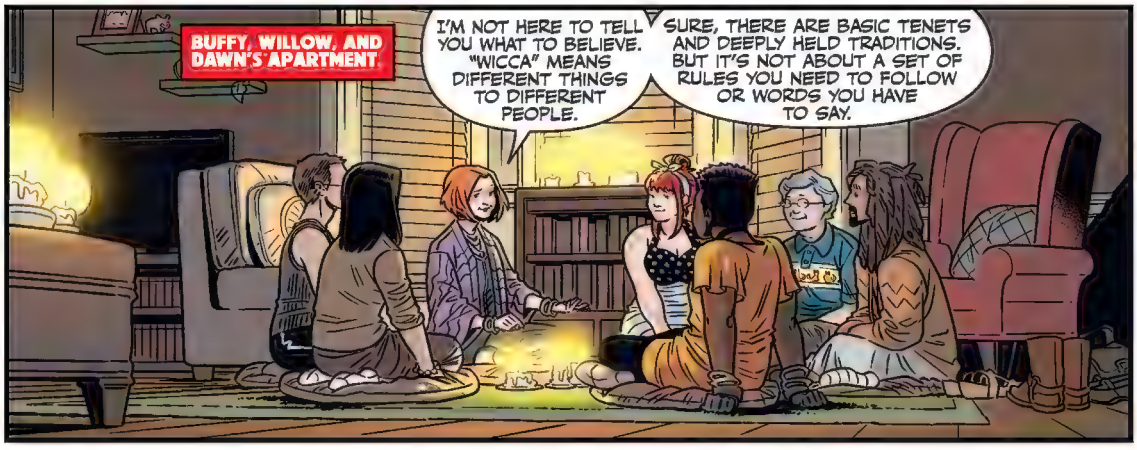
Colors by **Dan Jackson**

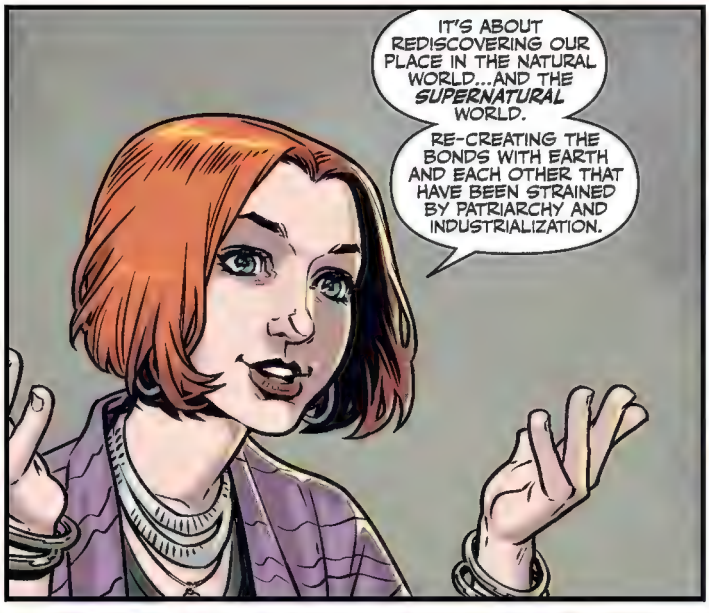
Letters by **Richard Starkings & Comicraft's Jimmy Betancourt**

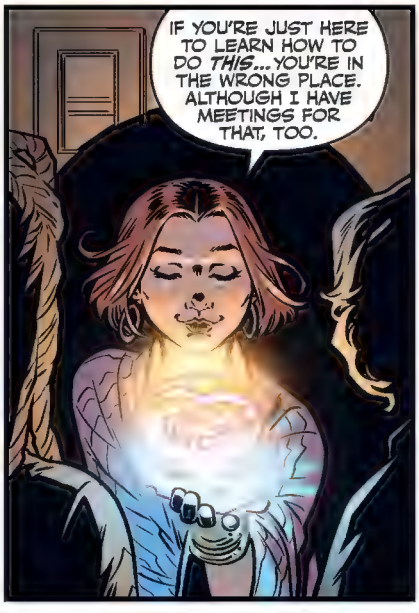
PART ONE
THE SPREAD OF THEIR EVIL
THINK I'VE FOUND OUR SEWER KILLER!
WOW. MOVE OVER, SHERLOCK HOLMES.
CHOMP
SARCASM DOESN'T FIT YOU, LUV.
PFALIGH!
NO BLOOD, JUST SLIME.
GOT A HIDE LIKE A TANK, TOO. IT'LL TAKE TIME TO HACK THROUGH.
BUFFY!
RELAX. I HAVE A PLAN.
MAYBE NOT ONE OF MY BEST...


BAM! KNEW YOU HAD A BRAIN IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
SHKK
THAT WAS BLOODY INSANE, THAT WAS. IF YOU HADN'T TIMED IT PERFECTLY --
BUT I DID. I DO EVERYTHING PERFECTLY.
I'LL NEED TO INVESTIGATE THAT FOR MYSELF.
MONSTER, DEAD BODIES, REEKING SEWER...WHO WOULDN'T FEEL ROMANTIC IN SUCH A MAGICAL SETTING?
PRETTY MOUTHY FOR BACKUP THAT'S SO LATE, DOWLING.
PATTERSON HERE SAW AN ALLIGATOR. TURNED OUT TO BE A TRASH BAG. THERE'S A REASON THEY CALL US SAN FRANCISCO'S FINEST.

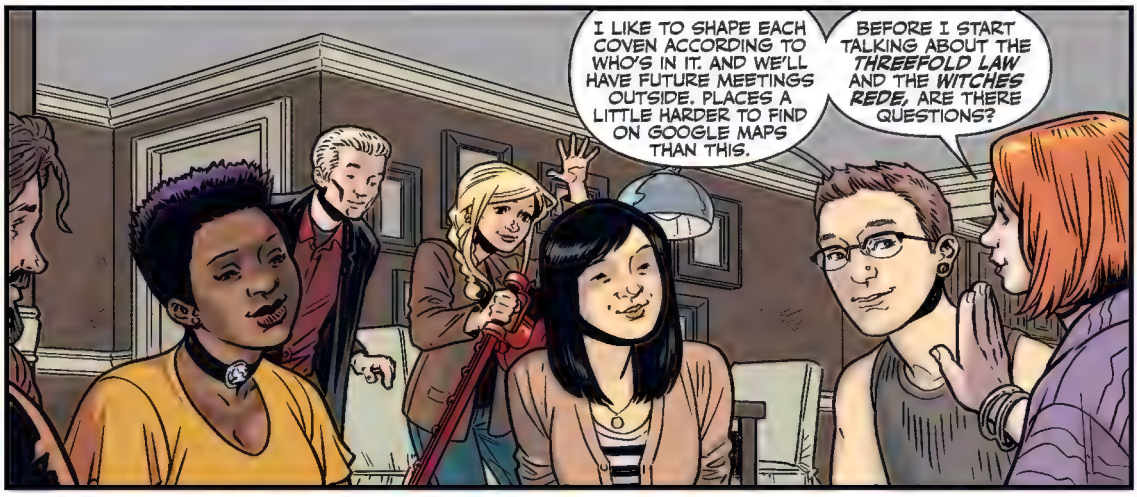

SO IT *WAS* A DEMON. WHAT KIND?
MY FAVORITE. THE DEAD KIND.
EVEN I'M STUMPED ON THIS ONE. GILES WILL KNOW. TEXT ME THE PICS.
THAT'D BE GREAT. YOU KNOW HOW *SUPERNATURAL CRIMES* IS ABOUT LOOSE ENDS.
NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT. WE'VE GOT THE CITY LOCKED DOWN PRETTY TIGHT.
TOO RIGHT. DROVE THE BADDIES UNDERGROUND, LITERALLY.
AND WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU. THE BRASS KNOWS THAT. YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT FROM ME, BUT THEY'D HIRE YOU ON FULL TIME.
CONSULTING'S FINE. I'D HATE FOR SLICING UP CREEPY-CRAWLIES TO START FEELING LIKE WORK. BUT IT'S NICE TO BE WANTED.
SO, SPIKE... SEEMS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING WELL WITH YOU TWO.
CAN'T COMPLAIN, REALLY. HIT A ROUGH PATCH A FEW MONTHS BACK, BUT GOT PAST IT.
THINGS'RE ACES NOW. EQUAL, LIKE. ABOUT HOW WE MAKE EACH OTHER BETTER, NOT SOME SELFISH NEUROSES OUR MUM AND DAD HAMMERED INTO US.
ODD THING TO SAY FOR AN IMMORTAL...BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE *GROWN,* Y'KNOW?
GOOD FOR YOU. I BET SHE FEELS THE SAME WAY.
FROM YOUR MOUTH TO THE DEITY OF YOUR CHOICE'S EARS, MATE.

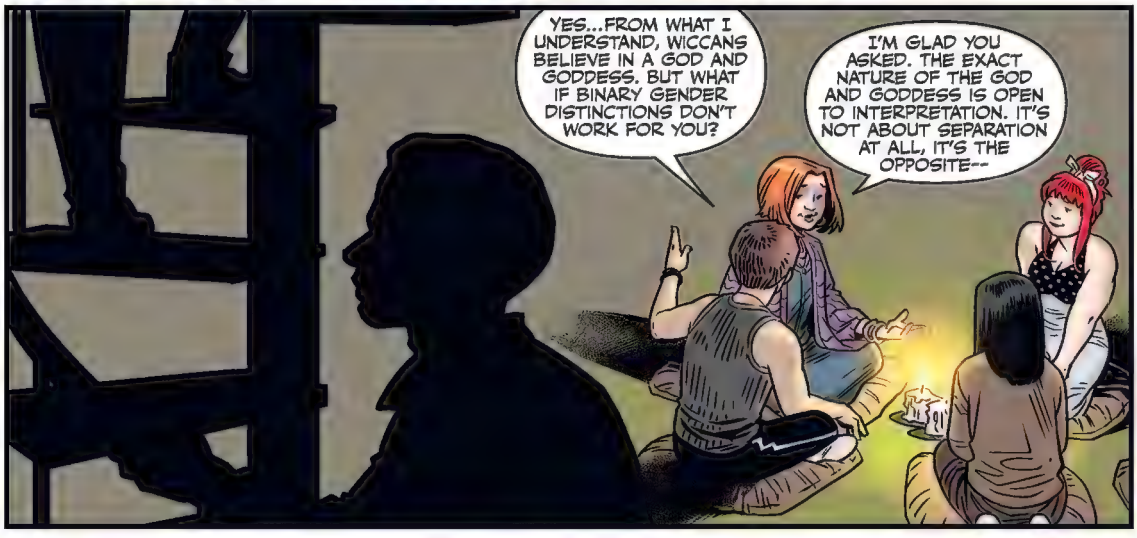

BUFFY, WILLOW, AND DAWN'S APARTMENT
I'M NOT HERE TO TELL YOU WHAT TO BELIEVE. "WICCA" MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
SURE, THERE ARE BASIC TENETS AND DEEPLY HELD TRADITIONS. BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT A SET OF RULES YOU NEED TO FOLLOW OR WORDS YOU HAVE TO SAY.


IT'S ABOUT REDISCOVERING OUR PLACE IN THE NATURAL WORLD...AND THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD.
RE-CREATING THE BONDS WITH EARTH AND EACH OTHER THAT HAVE BEEN STRAINED BY PATRIARCHY AND INDUSTRIALIZATION.

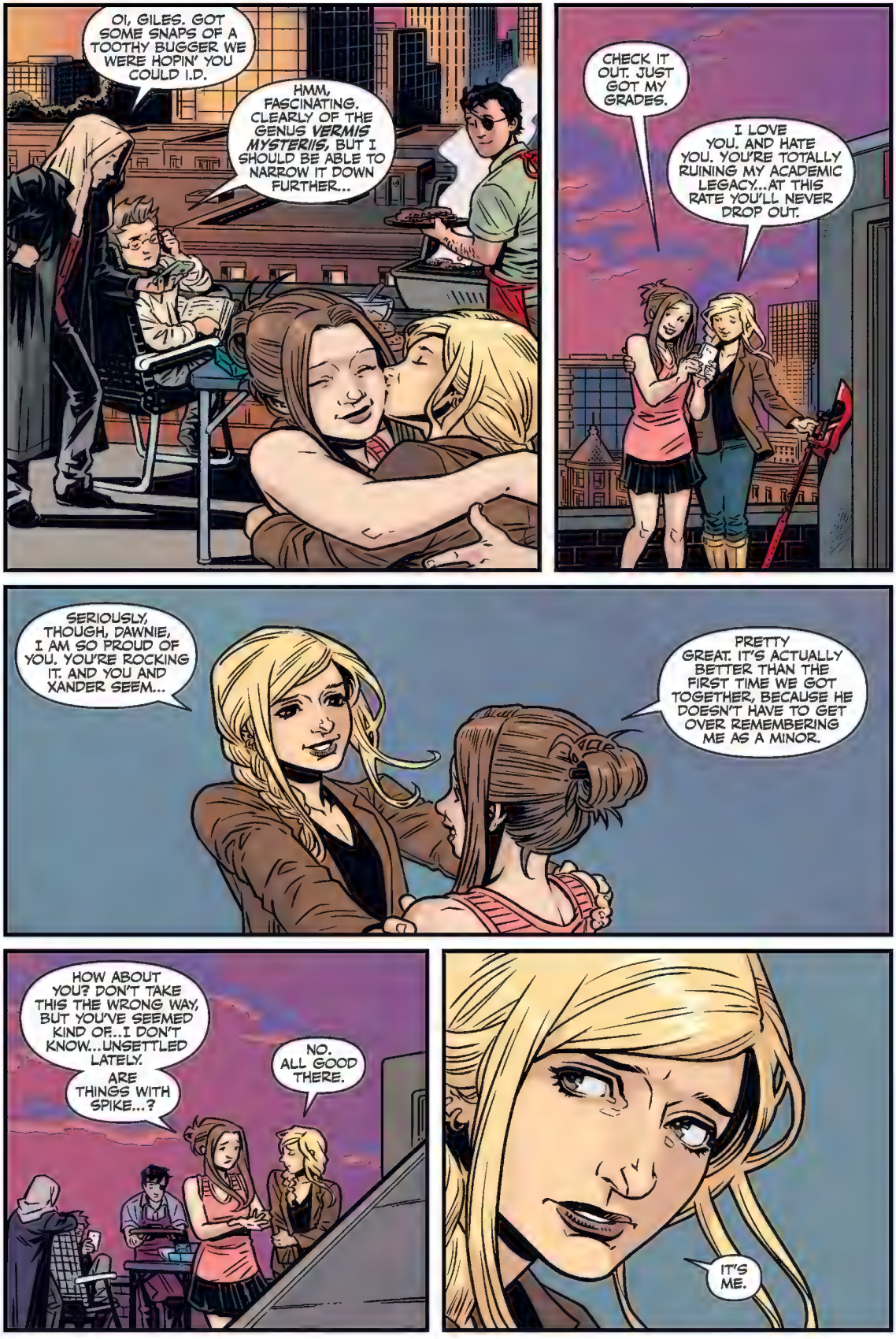

IF YOU'RE JUST HERE TO LEARN HOW TO DO THIS...YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE. ALTHOUGH I HAVE MEETINGS FOR THAT, TOO.

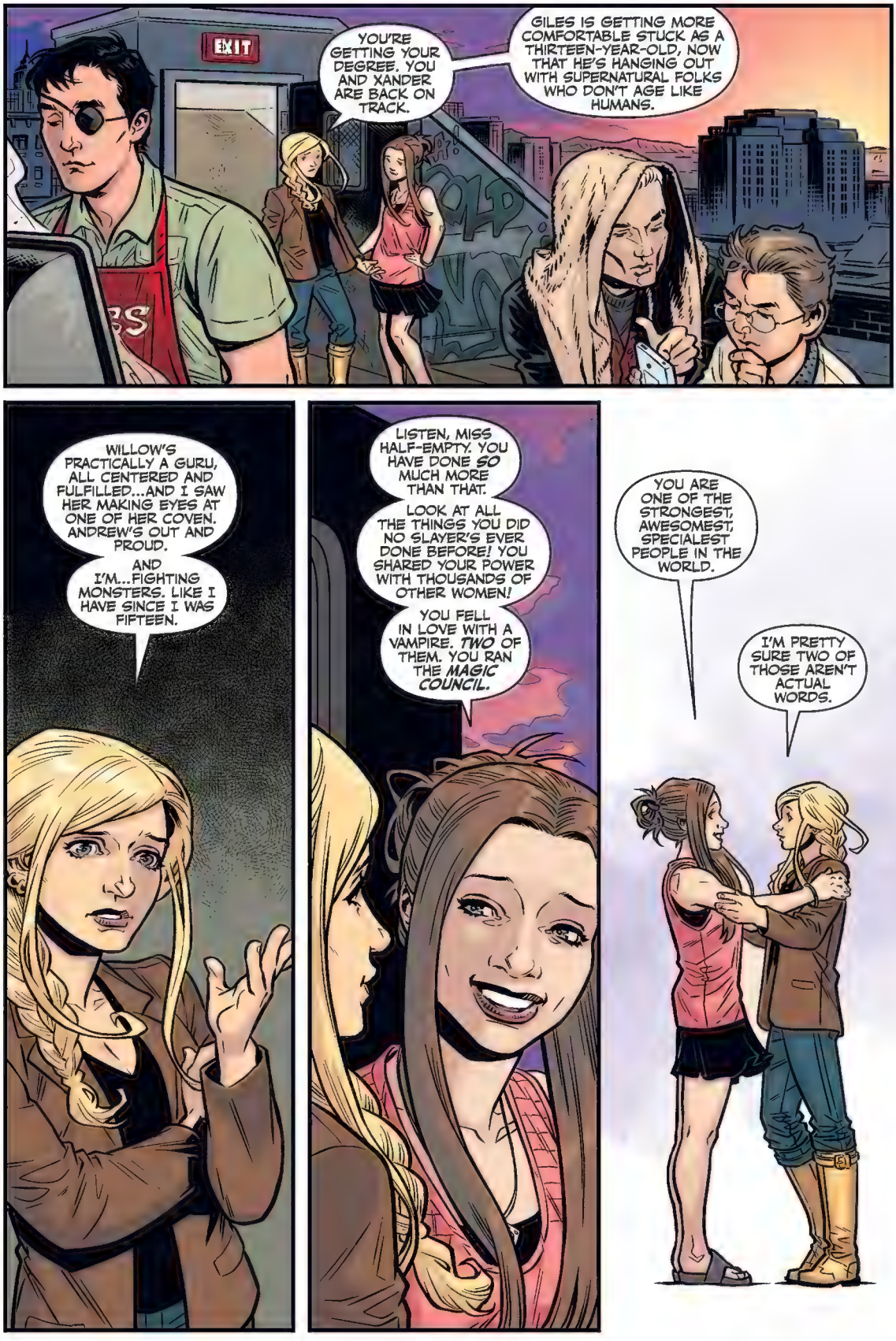
WE'LL COVER SPELL CASTING, BUT IT'S NOT THE POINT. HERE, OUR FOCUS IS ON ONENESS. HAPPINESS. FULFILLMENT.
AND THE MANY WAYS TO FIND IT.

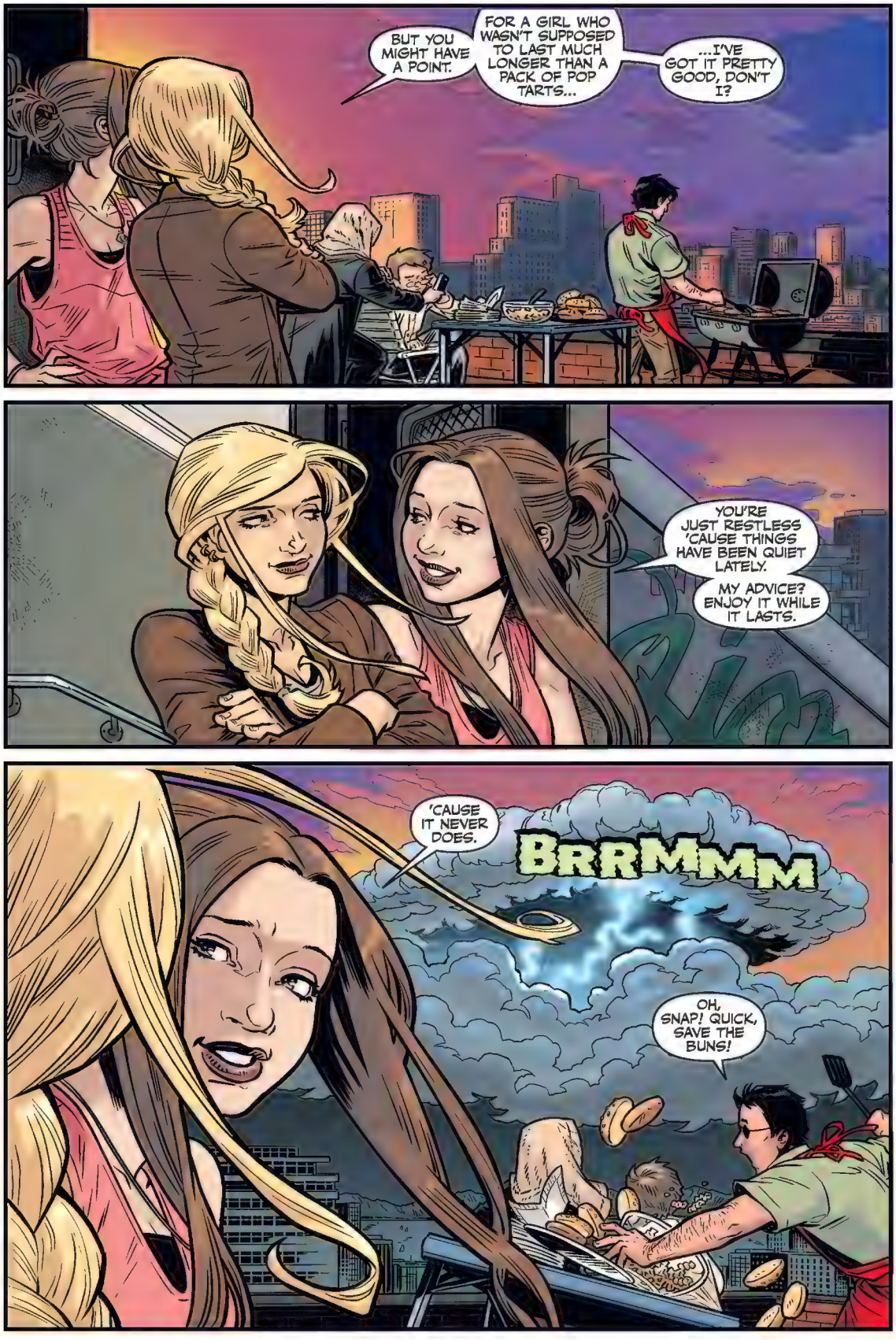

I LIKE TO SHAPE EACH COVEN ACCORDING TO WHO'S IN IT. AND WE'LL HAVE FUTURE MEETINGS OUTSIDE. PLACES A LITTLE HARDER TO FIND ON GOOGLE MAPS THAN THIS.
BEFORE I START TALKING ABOUT THE *THREEFOLD LAW* AND THE *WITCHES REDE*, ARE THERE QUESTIONS?

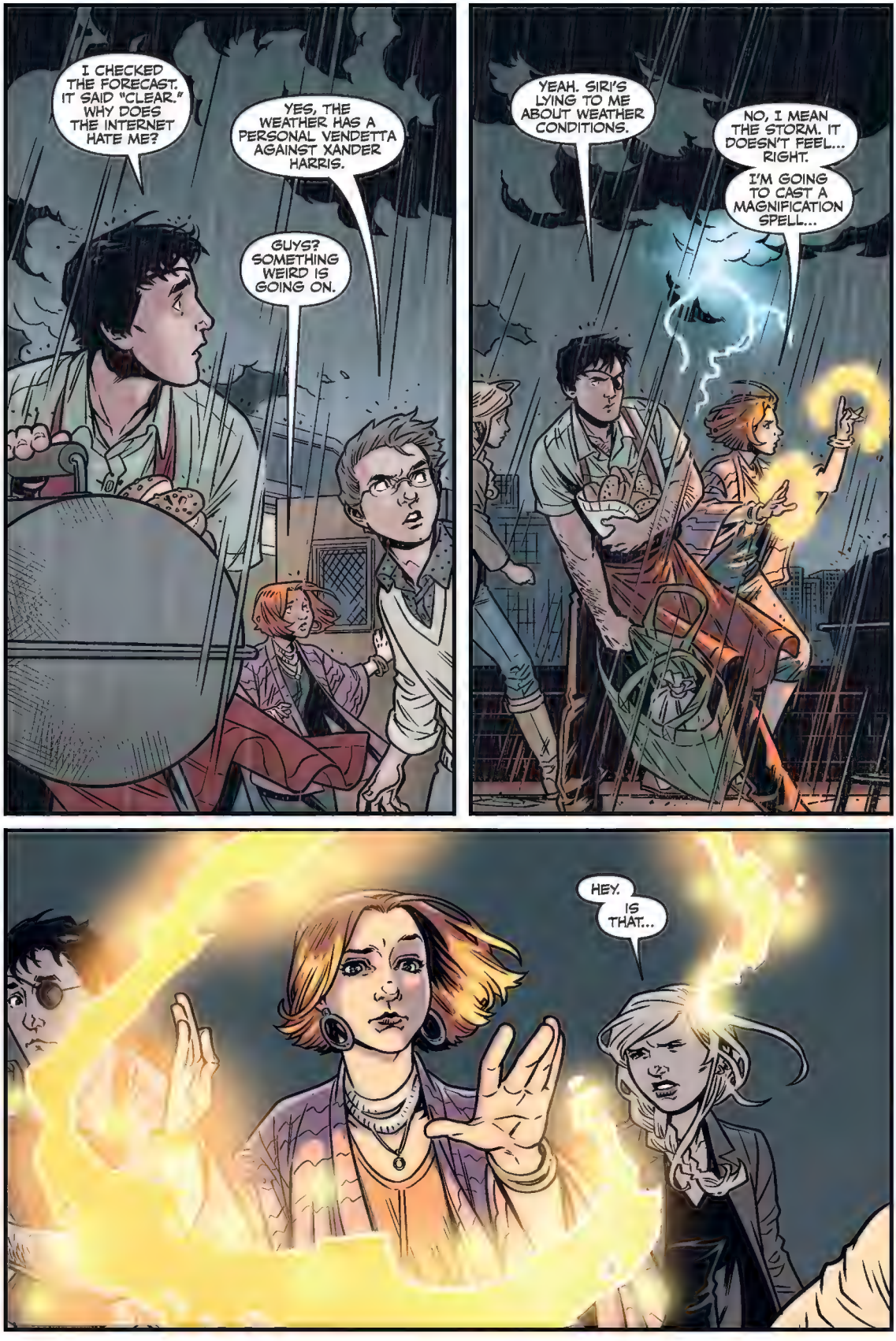

YES...FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, WICCANS BELIEVE IN A GOD AND GODDESS. BUT WHAT IF BINARY GENDER DISTINCTIONS DON'T WORK FOR YOU?
I'M GLAD YOU ASKED. THE EXACT NATURE OF THE GOD AND GODDESS IS OPEN TO INTERPRETATION. IT'S NOT ABOUT SEPARATION AT ALL, IT'S THE OPPOSITE--

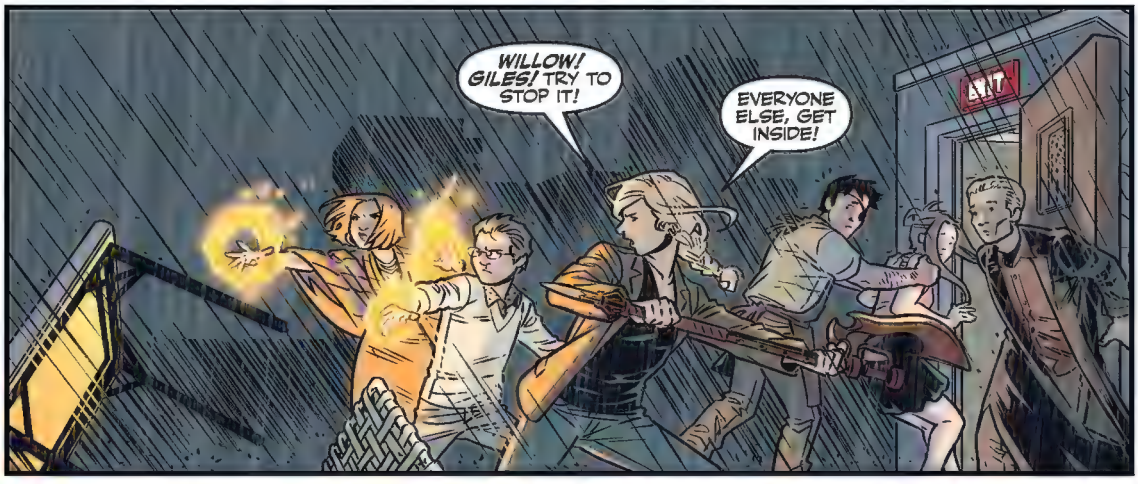
CHEESE IT, THE FUZZ!
SUPERNATURAL CRIME CONSULTANTS. WE'RE KINDA LAX ABOUT REGULAR CRIME. I'M PRETTY SURE SPIKE'S AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT.
WE PREFER "UNDOCUMENTED."
YAY! COME TRY THE PASTA SALAD. I MADE IT MYSELF.
I BELIEVE *IT* MAY QUALIFY AS A SUPERNATURAL CRIME.
the Cook

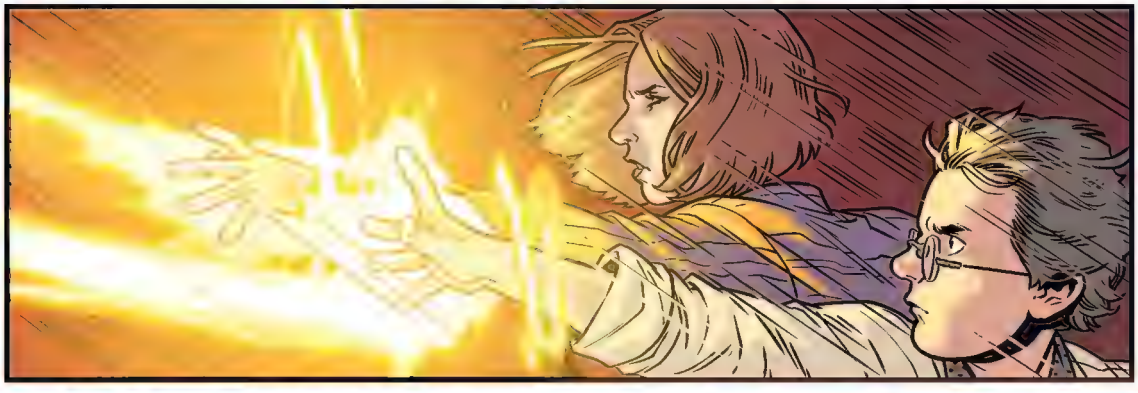

OI, GILES. GOT SOME SNAPS OF A TOOTHY BUGGER WE WERE HOPIN' YOU COULD I.D.
HMM, FASCINATING. CLEARLY OF THE GENUS *VERMIS MYSTERIIS*, BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO NARROW IT DOWN FURTHER...
CHECK IT OUT. JUST GOT MY GRADES.
I LOVE YOU. AND HATE YOU. YOU'RE TOTALLY RUINING MY ACADEMIC LEGACY...AT THIS RATE YOU'LL NEVER DROP OUT.
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, DAWNIE, I AM SO PROUD OF YOU. YOU'RE ROCKING IT. AND YOU AND XANDER SEEM...
PRETTY GREAT. IT'S ACTUALLY BETTER THAN THE FIRST TIME WE GOT TOGETHER, BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE TO GET OVER REMEMBERING ME AS A MINOR.
HOW ABOUT YOU? DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT YOU'VE SEEMED KIND OF...I DON'T KNOW...UNSETTLED LATELY.
ARE THINGS WITH SPIKE...?
NO. ALL GOOD THERE.
IT'S ME.

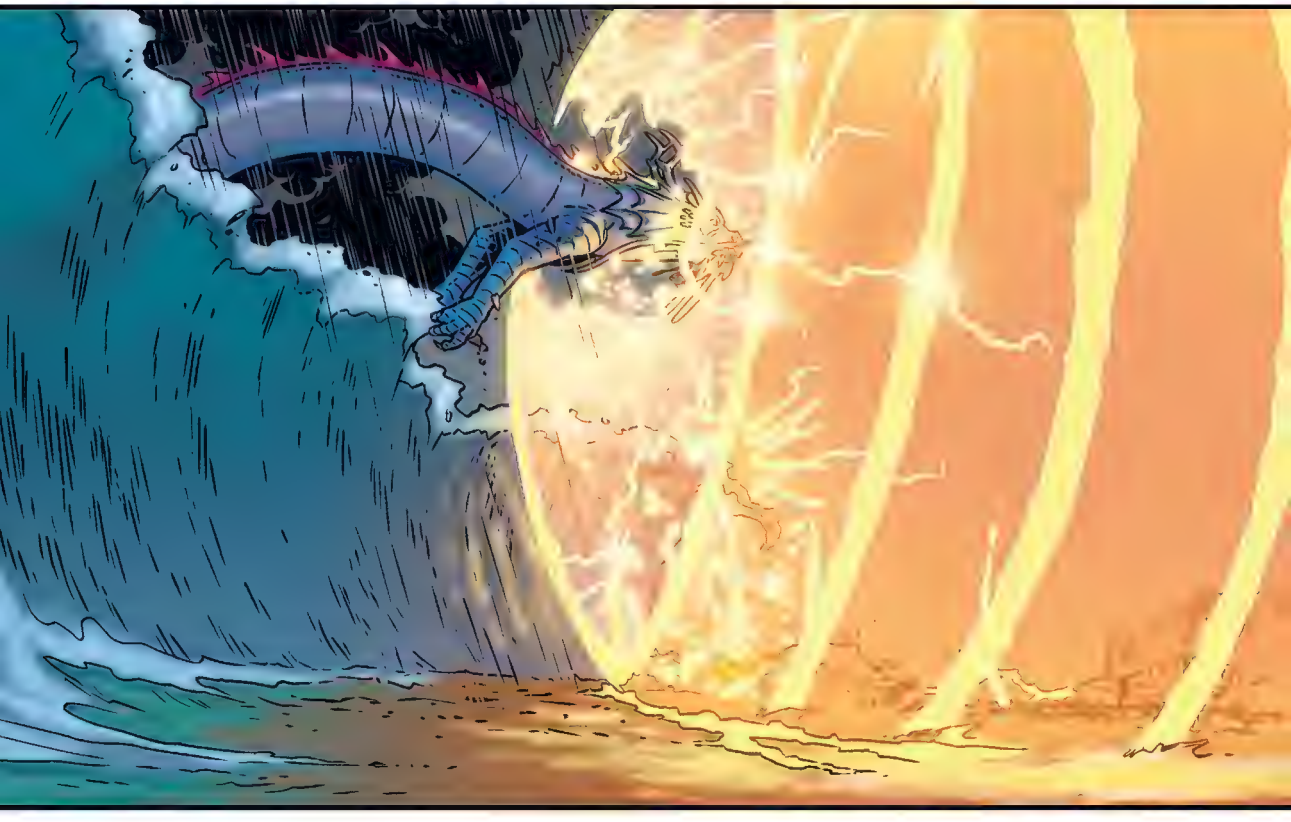

EXIT
YOU'RE GETTING YOUR DEGREE. YOU AND XANDER ARE BACK ON TRACK.
GILES IS GETTING MORE COMFORTABLE STUCK AS A THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD, NOW THAT HE'S HANGING OUT WITH SUPERNATURAL FOLKS WHO DON'T AGE LIKE HUMANS.
WILLOW'S PRACTICALLY A GURU, ALL CENTERED AND FULFILLED...AND I SAW HER MAKING EYES AT ONE OF HER COVEN. ANDREW'S OUT AND PROUD.
AND I'M...FIGHTING MONSTERS. LIKE I HAVE SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN.
LISTEN, MISS HALF-EMPTY. YOU HAVE DONE *SO* MUCH MORE THAN THAT.
LOOK AT ALL THE THINGS YOU DID NO SLAYER'S EVER DONE BEFORE! YOU SHARED YOUR POWER WITH THOUSANDS OF OTHER WOMEN!
YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH A VAMPIRE. *TWO* OF THEM. YOU RAN THE *MAGIC COUNCIL.*
YOU ARE ONE OF THE STRONGEST, AWESOMEST, SPECIALEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
I'M PRETTY SURE TWO OF THOSE AREN'T ACTUAL WORDS.

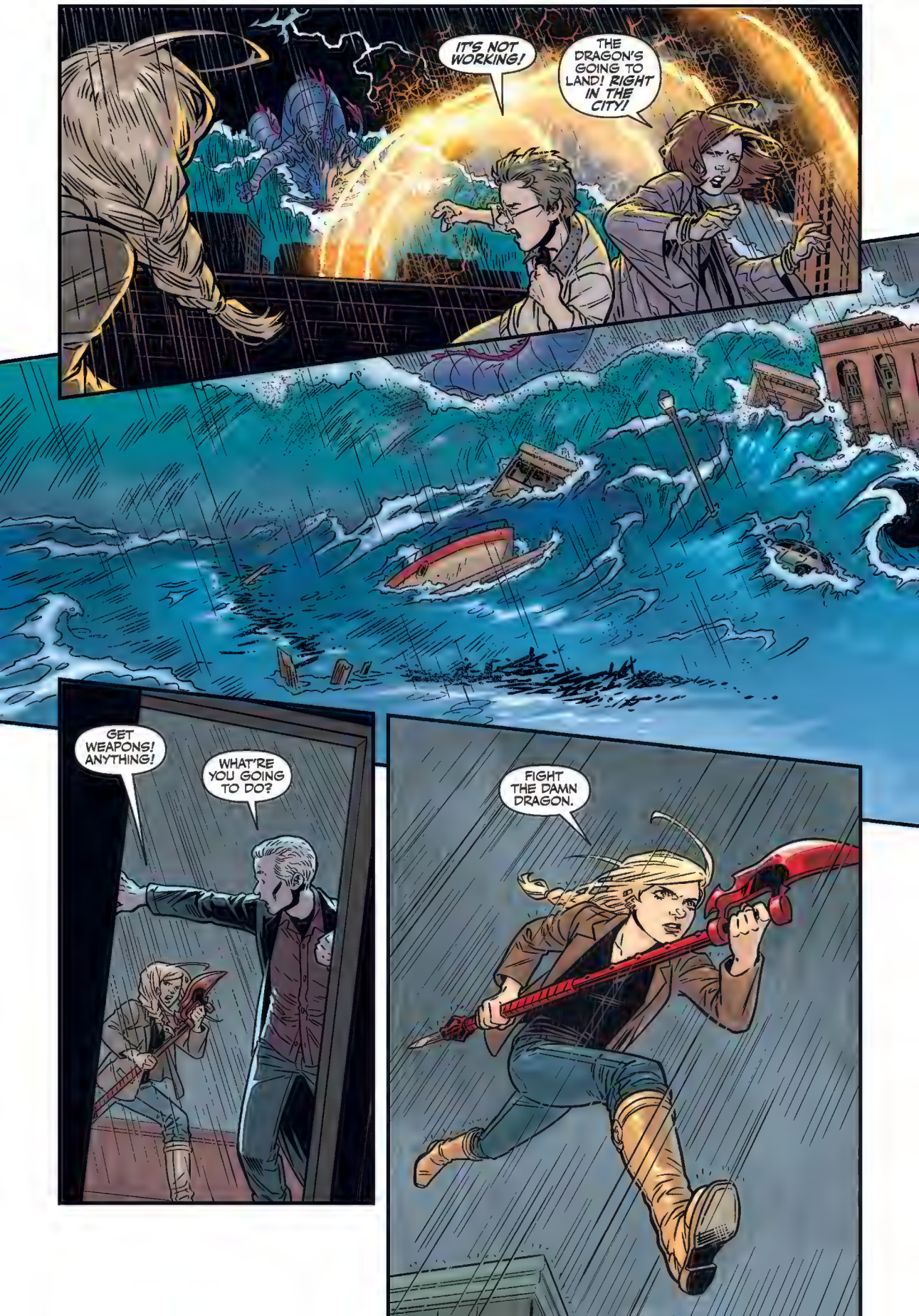

BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE A POINT.
FOR A GIRL WHO WASN'T SUPPOSED TO LAST MUCH LONGER THAN A PACK OF POP TARTS...
...I'VE GOT IT PRETTY GOOD, DON'T I?
YOU'RE JUST RESTLESS 'CAUSE THINGS HAVE BEEN QUIET LATELY.
MY ADVICE? ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS.
'CAUSE IT NEVER DOES.
BRRMMM
OH, SNAP! QUICK, SAVE THE BUNS!


I CHECKED THE FORECAST. IT SAID "CLEAR." WHY DOES THE INTERNET HATE ME?
YES, THE WEATHER HAS A PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST XANDER HARRIS.
GUYS? SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING ON.
YEAH. SIRI'S LYING TO ME ABOUT WEATHER CONDITIONS.
NO, I MEAN THE STORM. IT DOESN'T FEEL... RIGHT.
I'M GOING TO CAST A MAGNIFICATION SPELL...
HEY. IS THAT...


WILLOW! GILES! TRY TO STOP IT!
EVERYONE ELSE, GET INSIDE!
EXIT

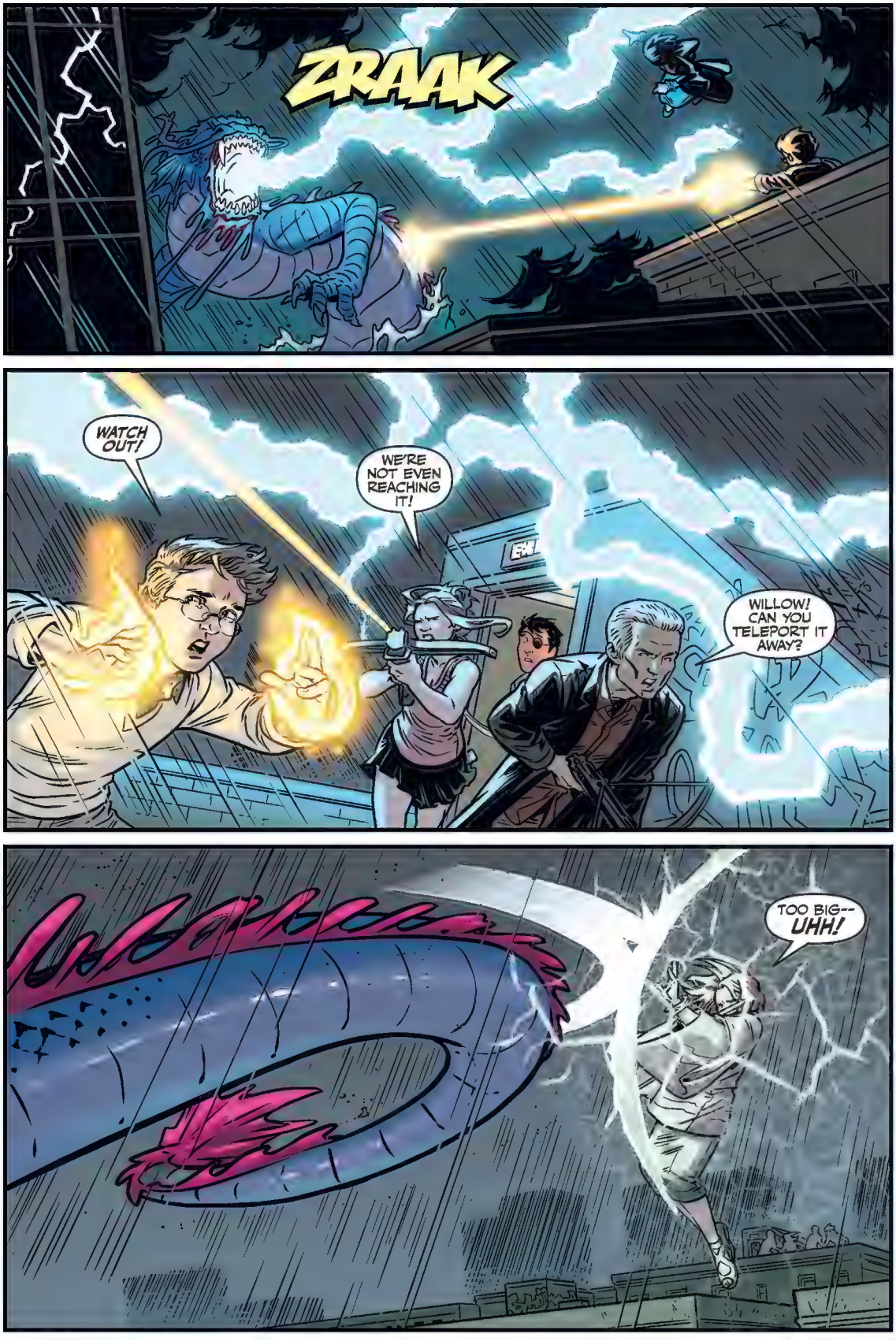





IT'S NOT WORKING!
THE DRAGON'S GOING TO LAND! RIGHT IN THE CITY!
GET WEAPONS! ANYTHING!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
FIGHT THE DAMN DRAGON.

GROOOAR
THNK
OR NOT...

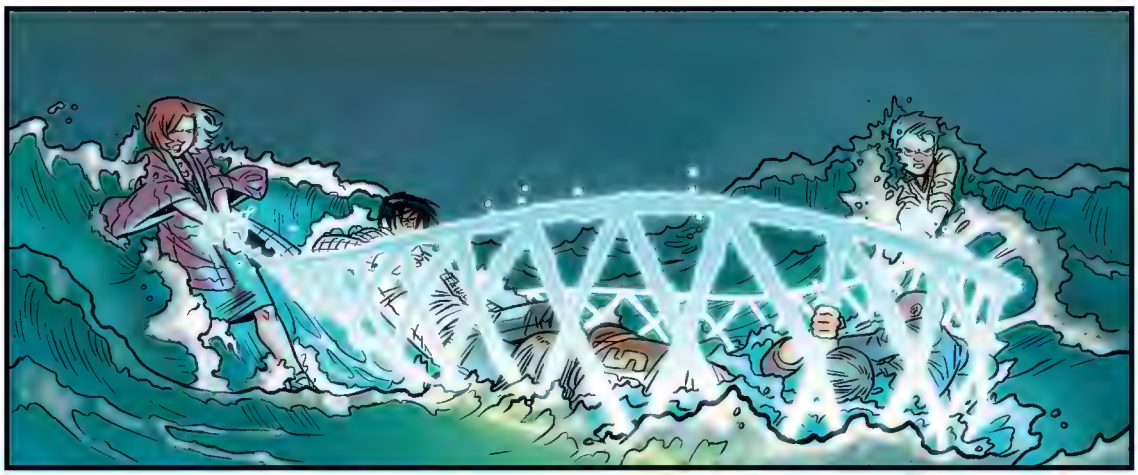
WHACK
KRSH
IT'S A SHENLONG. A CHINESE STORM DRAGON. I DIDN'T REALIZE THEY ACTUALLY EXISTED.
I... DON'T THINK I CAN MANAGE LEVITATION IN THIS STATE.
DO WHAT YOU CAN FROM HERE. WE'VE GOT TO GET IT OUT OF THE CITY--THE WATER'S *FOLLOWING* IT!
LET'S TRY HEAT. DEHYDRATE IT...

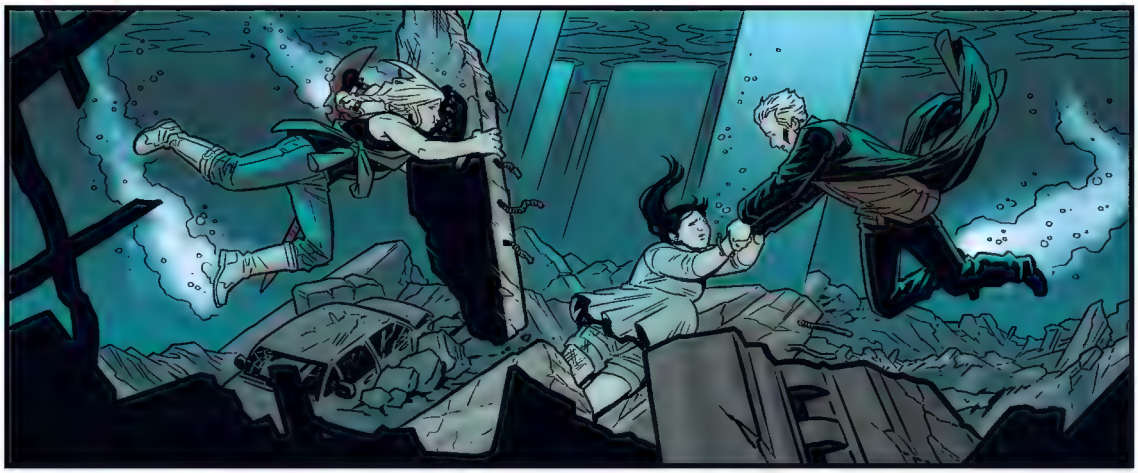

ZRAAK
WATCH OUT!
WE'RE NOT EVEN REACHING IT!
WILLOW! CAN YOU TELEPORT IT AWAY?
TOO BIG-- UHH!

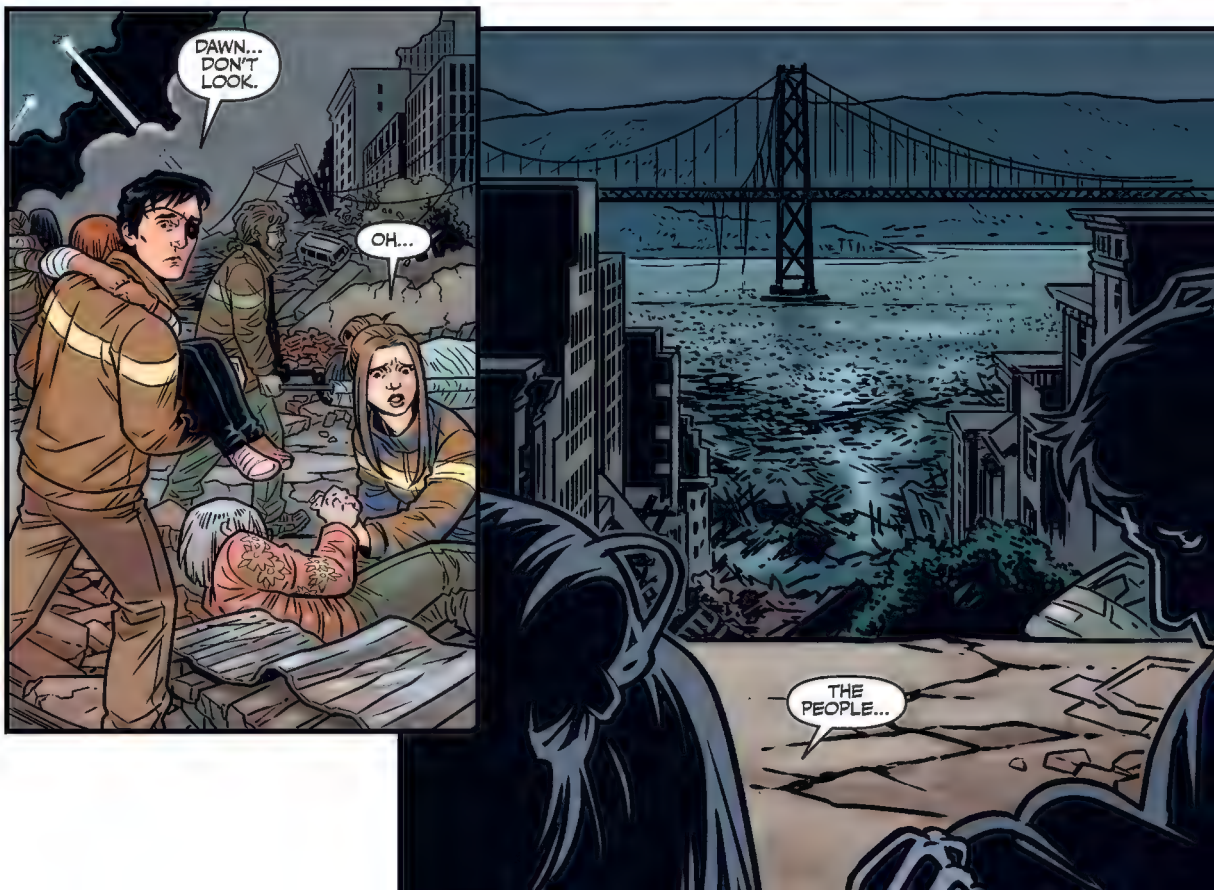
OH...
SHKK
SNAP

SKREEK
GOTCHA--
SNORT

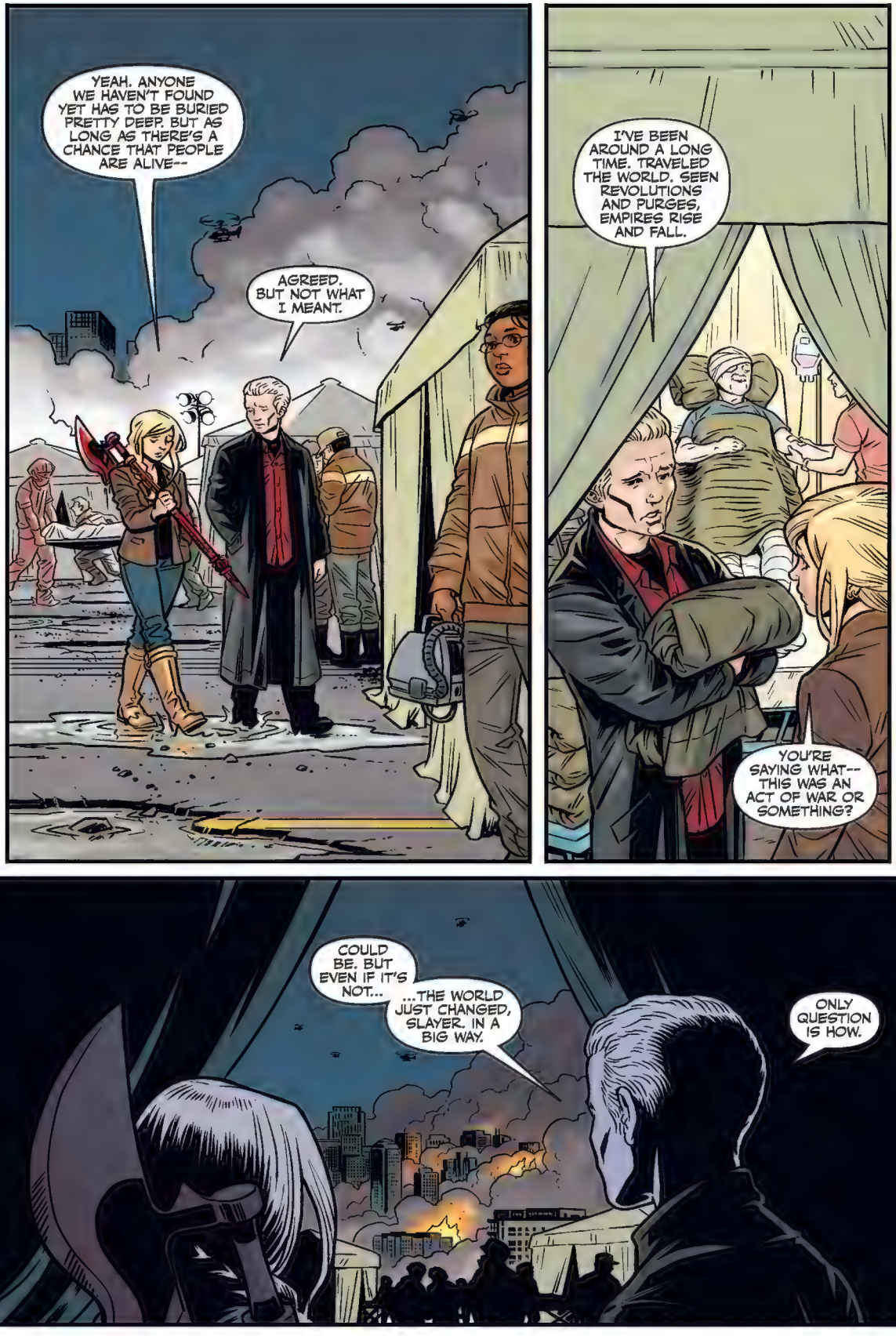
IS IT GONE? IS IT OVER?
NO.
EXIT
COME ON!



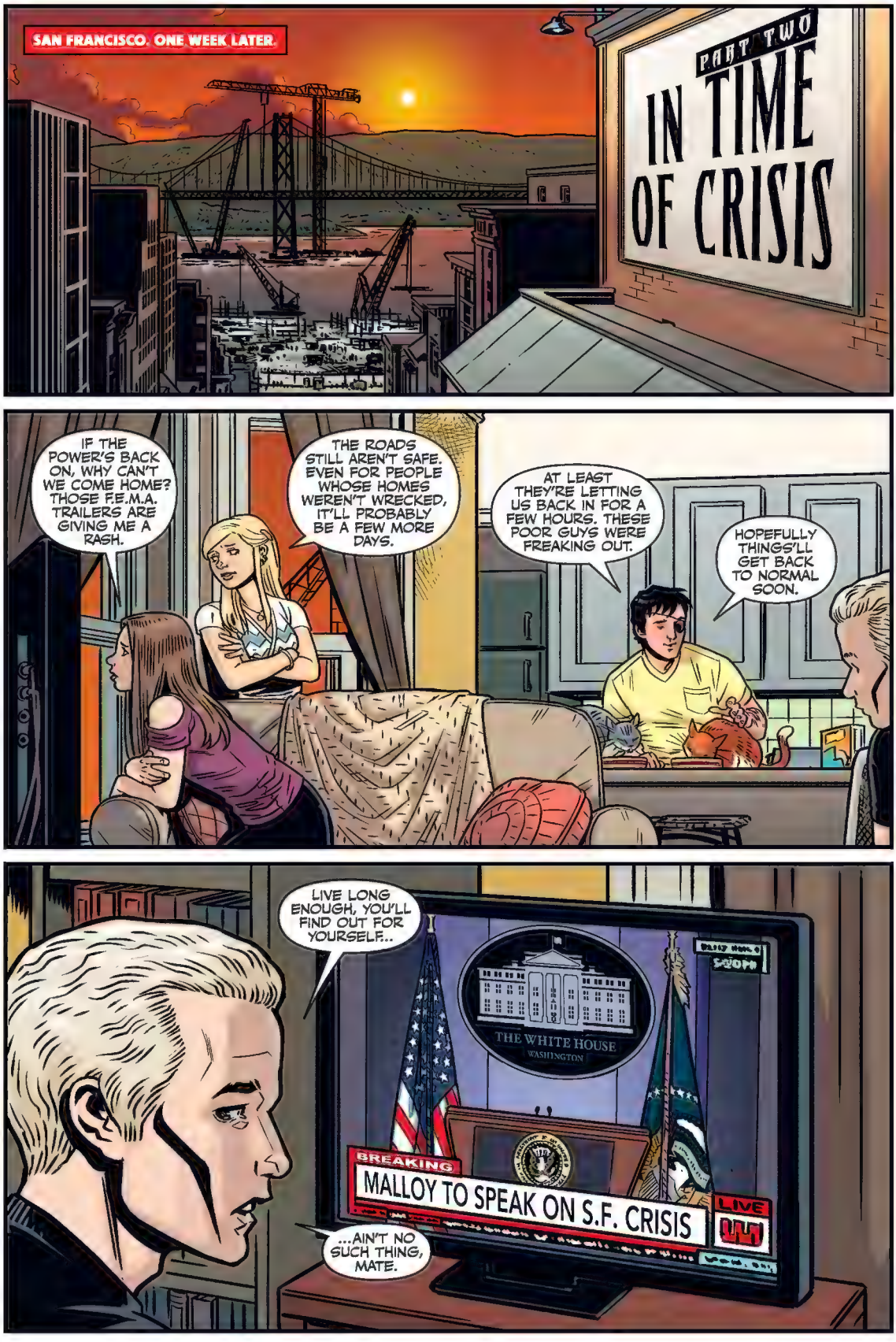


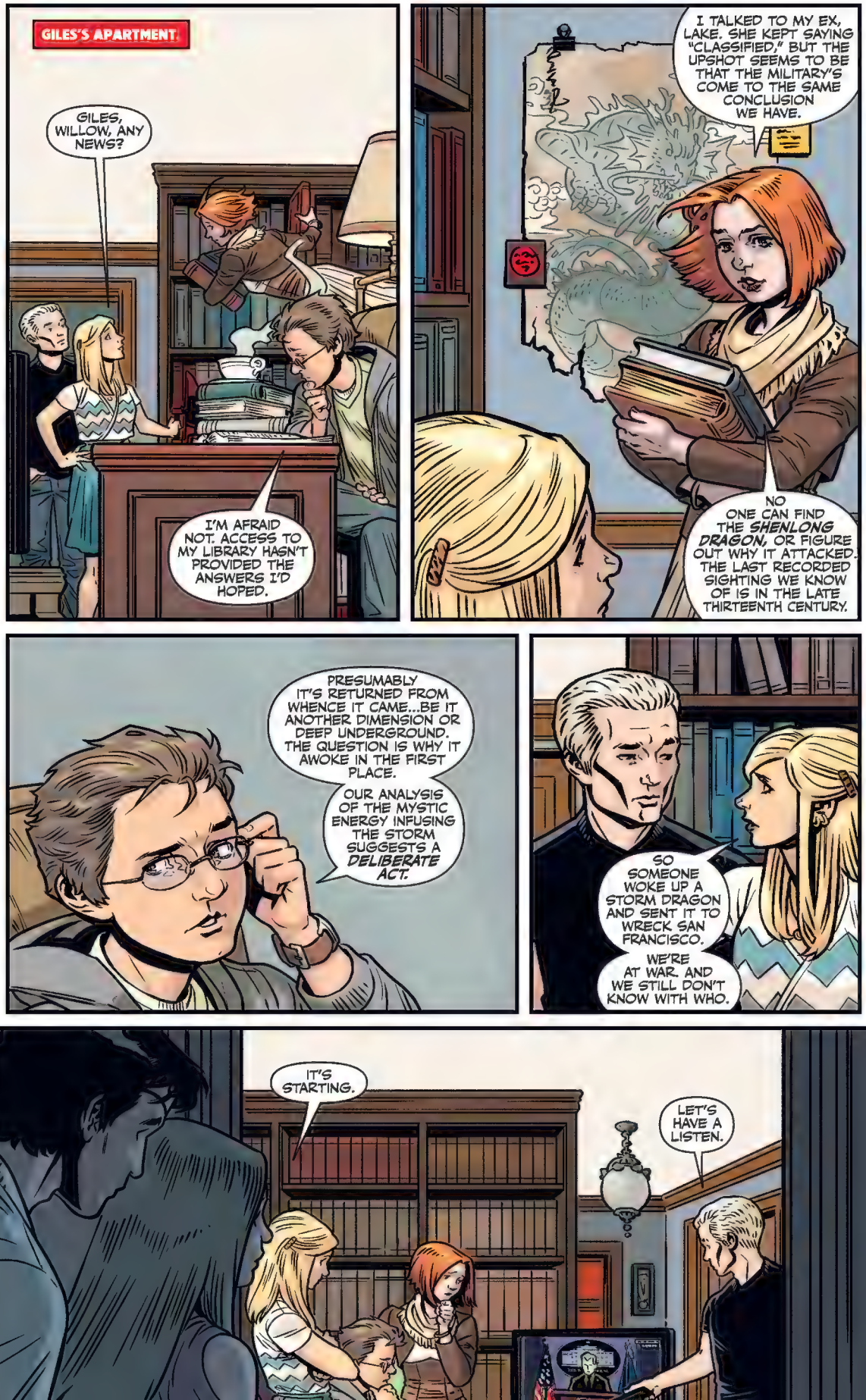

DAWN... DON'T LOOK.
OH...
THE PEOPLE...

ALL RIGHT?
GOT 'IM. YOU CAN LET IT DOWN. THANKS.
SPIKE, YOU SHOULD GET INSIDE. SUN'S COMING OUT.
I'LL COVER UP. THEY'LL NEED FOLKS WHO CAN LIFT WALLS FOR A WHILE YET.
YOU KNOW THIS IS JUST GONNA GET WORSE, RIGHT?

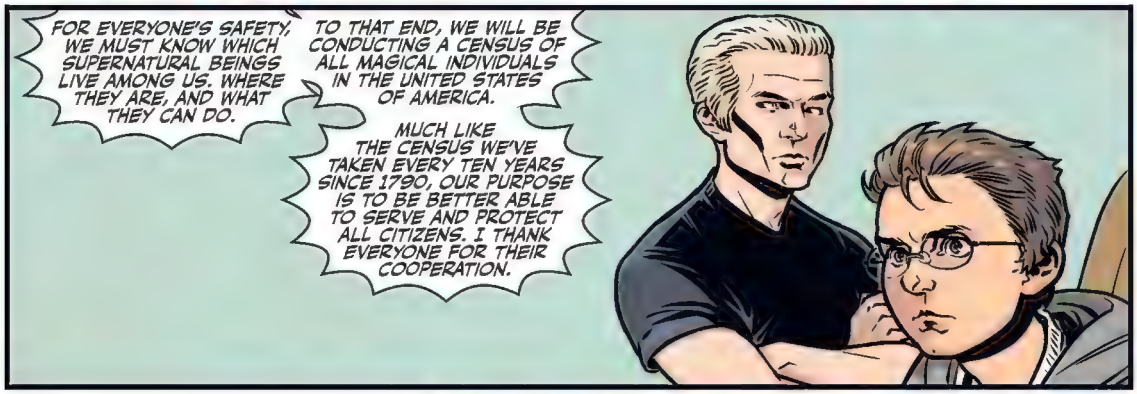

YEAH. ANYONE WE HAVEN'T FOUND YET HAS TO BE BURIED PRETTY DEEP. BUT AS LONG AS THERE'S A CHANCE THAT PEOPLE ARE ALIVE--
AGREED. BUT NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I'VE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME. TRAVELED THE WORLD. SEEN REVOLUTIONS AND PURGES, EMPIRES RISE AND FALL.
YOU'RE SAYING WHAT-- THIS WAS AN ACT OF WAR OR SOMETHING?
COULD BE. BUT EVEN IF IT'S NOT...
...THE WORLD JUST CHANGED, SLAYER. IN A BIG WAY.
ONLY QUESTION IS HOW.

THE WHITE HOUSE.
HOW THE HELL COULD THIS HAPPEN?
WE DON'T KNOW, MR. PRESIDENT. NO ONE CAN FIND THIS...CREATURE. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE IT CAME FROM OR HOW IT GOT HERE.
WELL, THAT'S JUST--THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE! IT LEVELED A MAJOR AMERICAN CITY! WE NEED TO KNOW!
OF COURSE, SIR. AND OUR BEST EXPERTS ON THE SUPERNATURAL ARE WORKING ON IT.
IF I CAN INTERJECT, BILL?
OF COURSE, MR. VICE PRESIDENT.
I THINK THE QUESTION BEFORE US RIGHT NOW IS LESS HOW THIS HAPPENED...
...AND MORE WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT.

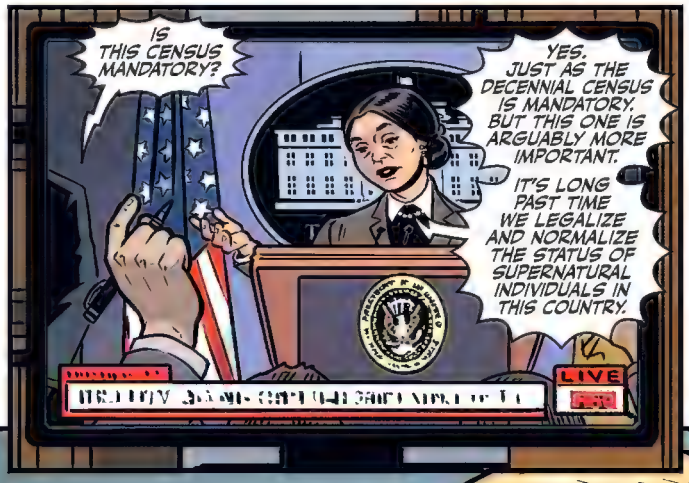

SAN FRANCISCO. ONE WEEK LATER.
PART TWO
IN TIME OF CRISIS
IF THE POWER'S BACK ON, WHY CAN'T WE COME HOME? THOSE F.E.M.A. TRAILERS ARE GIVING ME A RASH.
THE ROADS STILL AREN'T SAFE. EVEN FOR PEOPLE WHOSE HOMES WEREN'T WRECKED, IT'LL PROBABLY BE A FEW MORE DAYS.
AT LEAST THEY'RE LETTING US BACK IN FOR A FEW HOURS. THESE POOR GUYS WERE FREAKING OUT.
HOPEFULLY THINGS'LL GET BACK TO NORMAL SOON.
LIVE LONG ENOUGH, YOU'LL FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF...
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
BREAKING
MALLOY TO SPEAK ON S.F. CRISIS
LIVE
...AIN'T NO SUCH THING, MATE.


GILES'S APARTMENT.
GILES, WILLOW, ANY NEWS?
I'M AFRAID NOT. ACCESS TO MY LIBRARY HASN'T PROVIDED THE ANSWERS I'D HOPED.
I TALKED TO MY EX, LAKE. SHE KEPT SAYING "CLASSIFIED," BUT THE UPSHOT SEEMS TO BE THAT THE MILITARY'S COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION WE HAVE.
NO ONE CAN FIND THE SHENLONG DRAGON, OR FIGURE OUT WHY IT ATTACKED. THE LAST RECORDED SIGHTING WE KNOW OF IS IN THE LATE THIRTEENTH CENTURY.
PRESUMABLY IT'S RETURNED FROM WHENCE IT CAME...BE IT ANOTHER DIMENSION OR DEEP UNDERGROUND. THE QUESTION IS WHY IT AWOKE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
OUR ANALYSIS OF THE MYSTIC ENERGY INFUSING THE STORM SUGGESTS A DELIBERATE ACT.
SO SOMEONE WOKE UP A STORM DRAGON AND SENT IT TO WRECK SAN FRANCISCO.
WE'RE AT WAR. AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW WITH WHO.
IT'S STARTING.
LET'S HAVE A LISTEN.

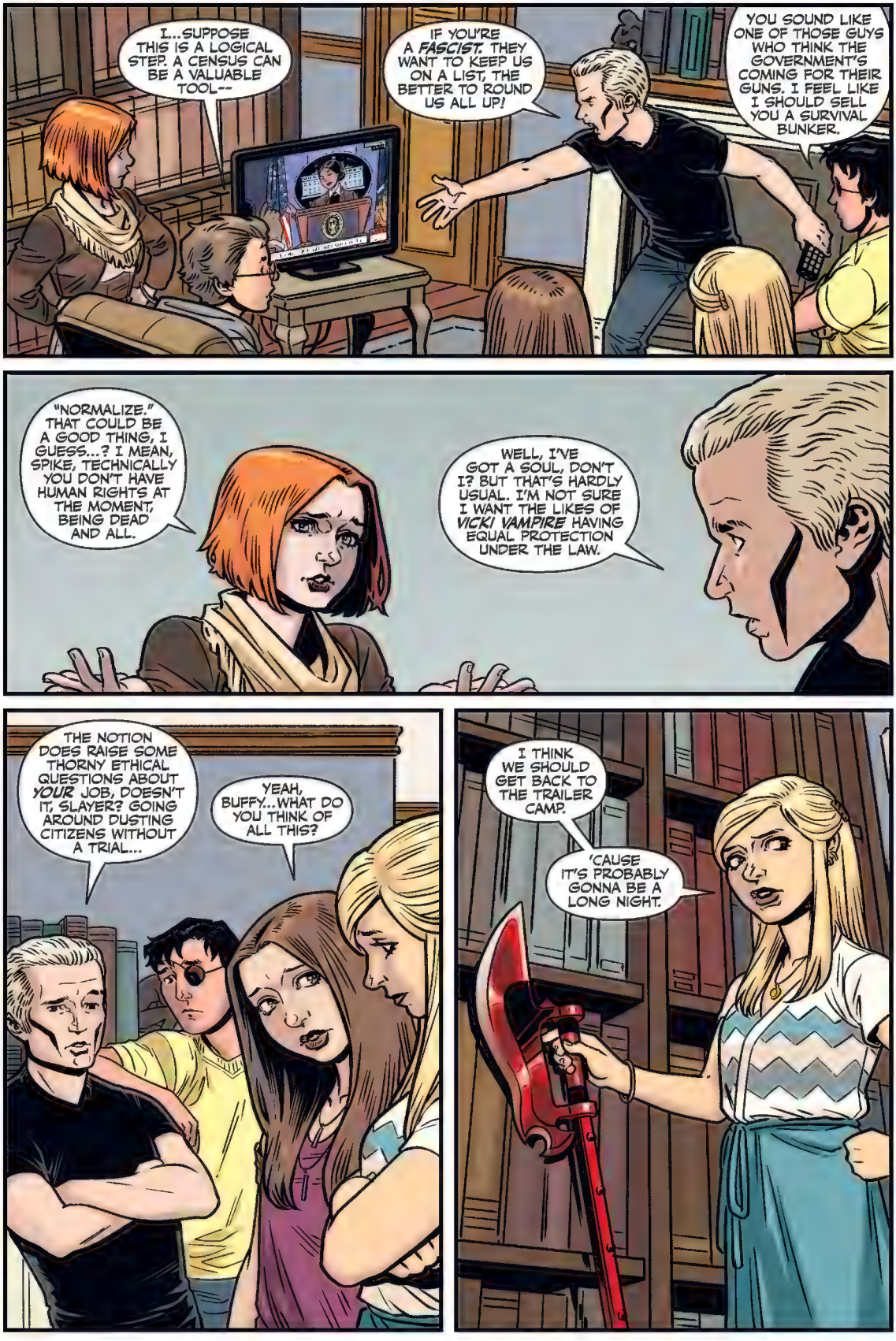
MY FELLOW AMERICANS...FOLLOWING A TRAGEDY LIKE THE ONE IN SAN FRANCISCO, IT'S BECOME A CLICHÉ TO SAY WE LIVE IN A DIFFERENT WORLD.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, WE'VE LIVED IN A DIFFERENT WORLD FOR SOME TIME NOW. ONE IN WHICH THE SUPERNATURAL HAS STEPPED OUT OF THE SHADOWS.
AS THE CITIZENS OF SAN FRANCISCO CAN TELL YOU, WE HAVE DISCOVERED, IN TERRIBLE FASHION, THAT WE WERE NOT PREPARED FOR THIS WORLD.

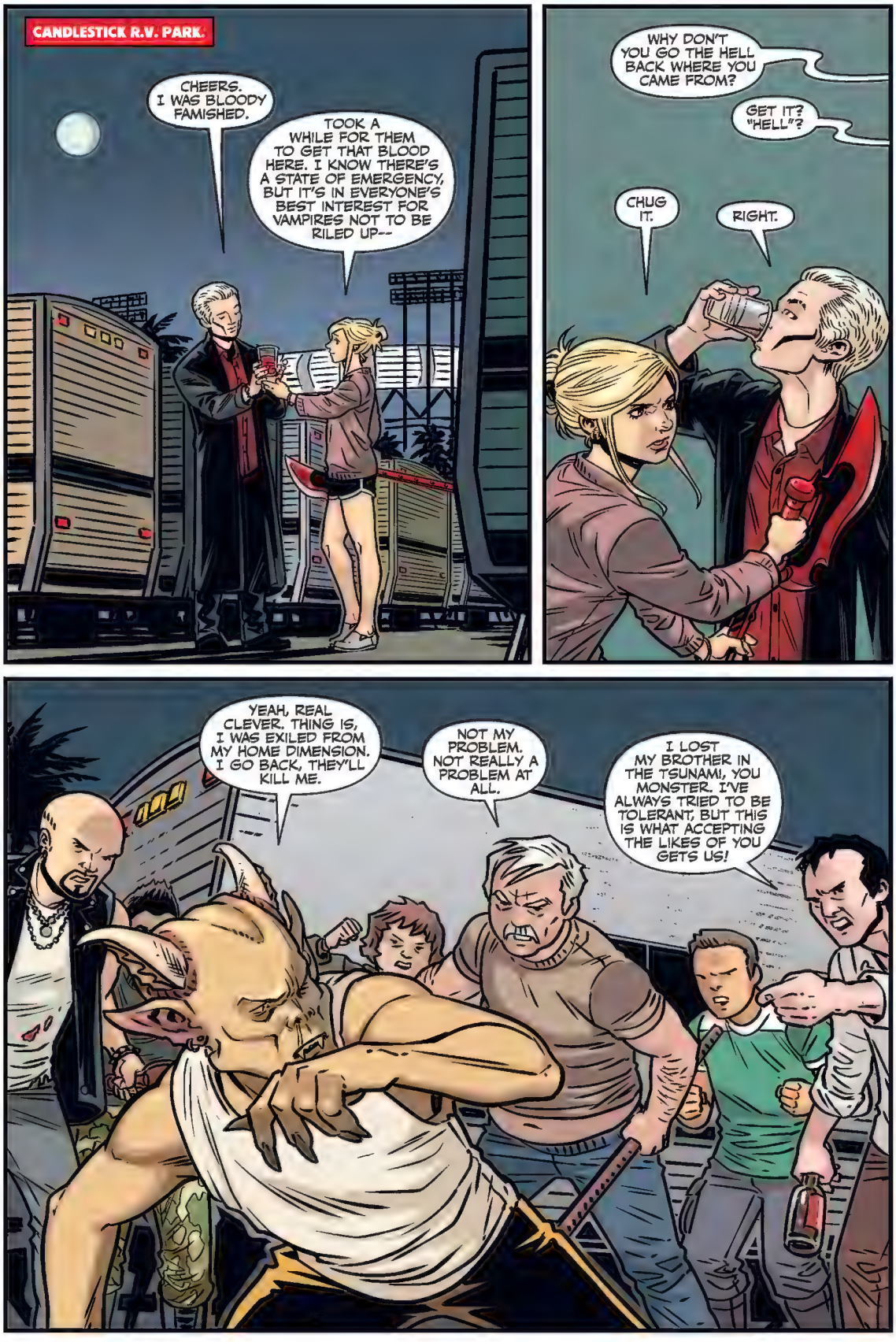

FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY, WE MUST KNOW WHICH SUPERNATURAL BEINGS LIVE AMONG US. WHERE THEY ARE, AND WHAT THEY CAN DO.
TO THAT END, WE WILL BE CONDUCTING A CENSUS OF ALL MAGICAL INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
MUCH LIKE THE CENSUS WE'VE TAKEN EVERY TEN YEARS SINCE 1790, OUR PURPOSE IS TO BE BETTER ABLE TO SERVE AND PROTECT ALL CITIZENS. I THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR COOPERATION.

NOW I'LL TURN THINGS OVER TO MY NEW SECRETARY OF THE SUPERNATURAL, OPHELIA REYES. OPHELIA--
THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M HAPPY TO TAKE QUESTIONS.


IS THIS CENSUS MANDATORY?
YES. JUST AS THE DECENNIAL CENSUS IS MANDATORY. BUT THIS ONE IS ARGUABLY MORE IMPORTANT.
IT'S LONG PAST TIME WE LEGALIZE AND NORMALIZE THE STATUS OF SUPERNATURAL INDIVIDUALS IN THIS COUNTRY.
LIVE

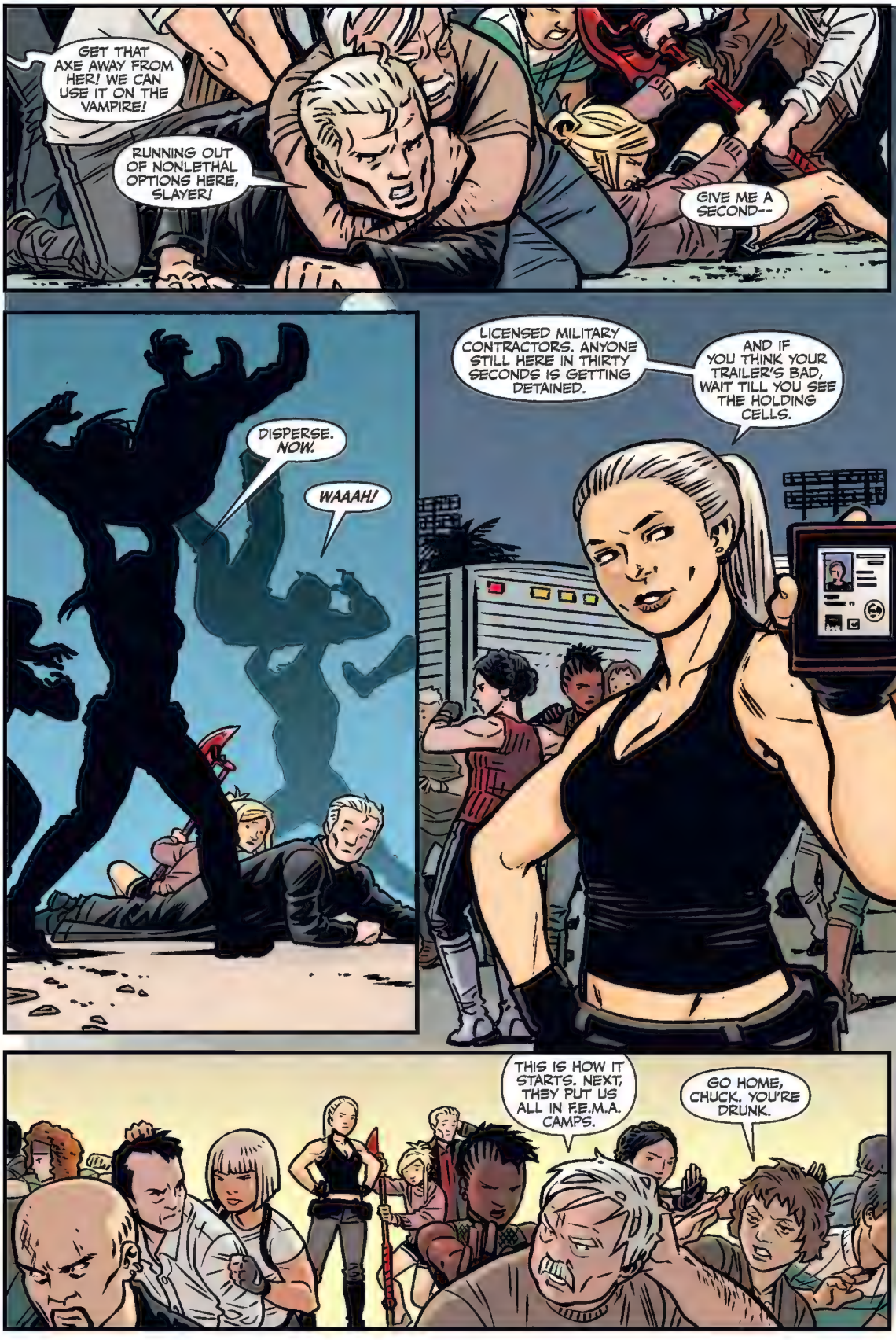
YAY.
WE'RE GOING TO BE NORMALIZED.

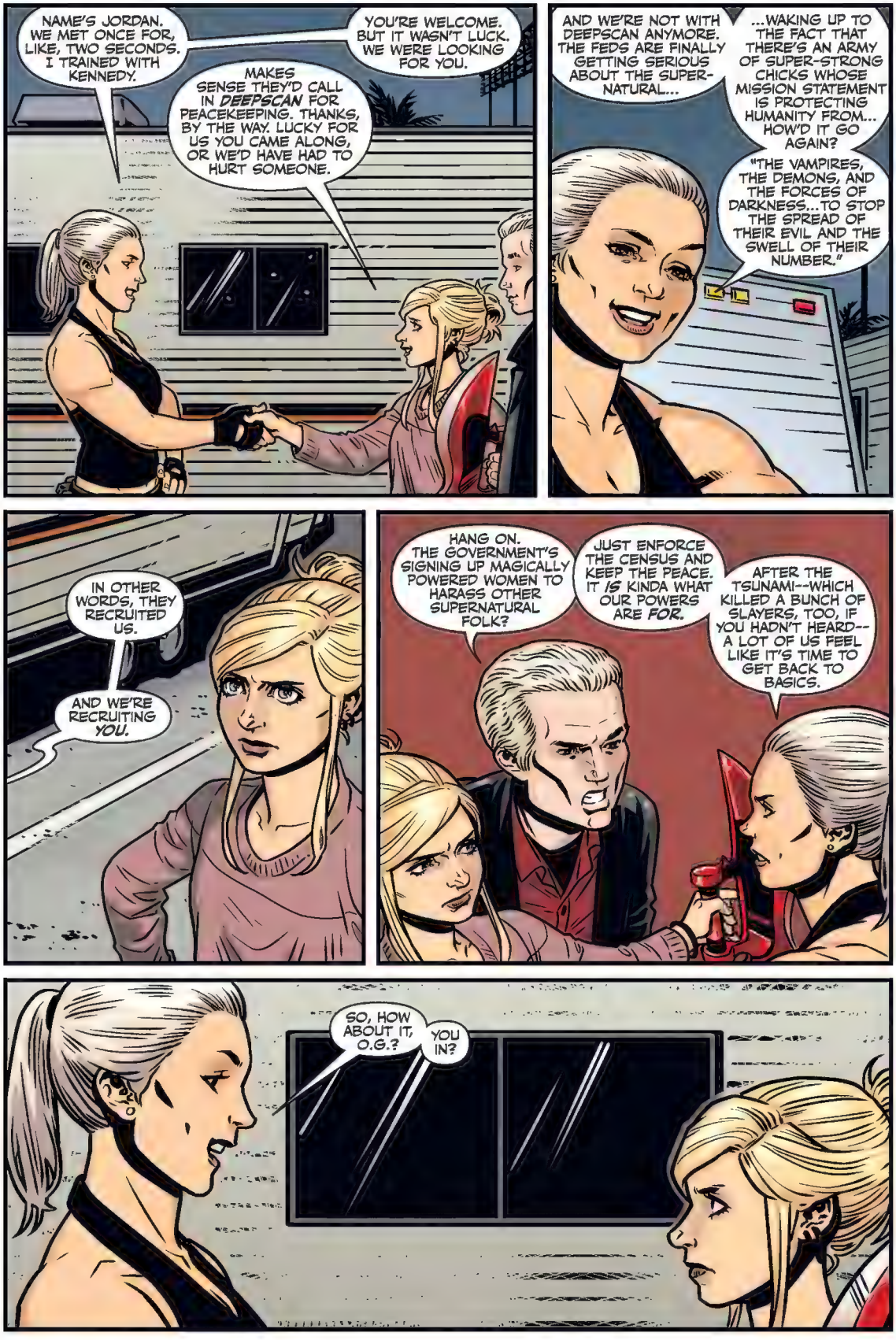

I...SUPPOSE THIS IS A LOGICAL STEP. A CENSUS CAN BE A VALUABLE TOOL--
IF YOU'RE A *FASCIST.* THEY WANT TO KEEP US ON A LIST, THE BETTER TO ROUND US ALL UP!
YOU SOUND LIKE ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO THINK THE GOVERNMENT'S COMING FOR THEIR GUNS. I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD SELL YOU A SURVIVAL BUNKER.
"NORMALIZE." THAT COULD BE A GOOD THING, I GUESS...? I MEAN, SPIKE, TECHNICALLY YOU DON'T HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE MOMENT, BEING DEAD AND ALL.
WELL, I'VE GOT A SOUL, DON'T I? BUT THAT'S HARDLY USUAL. I'M NOT SURE I WANT THE LIKES OF *VICKI VAMPIRE* HAVING EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW.
THE NOTION DOES RAISE SOME THORNY ETHICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT *YOUR* JOB, DOESN'T IT, SLAYER? GOING AROUND DUSTING CITIZENS WITHOUT A TRIAL...
YEAH, BUFFY...WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ALL THIS?
I THINK WE SHOULD GET BACK TO THE TRAILER CAMP.
'CAUSE IT'S PROBABLY GONNA BE A LONG NIGHT.

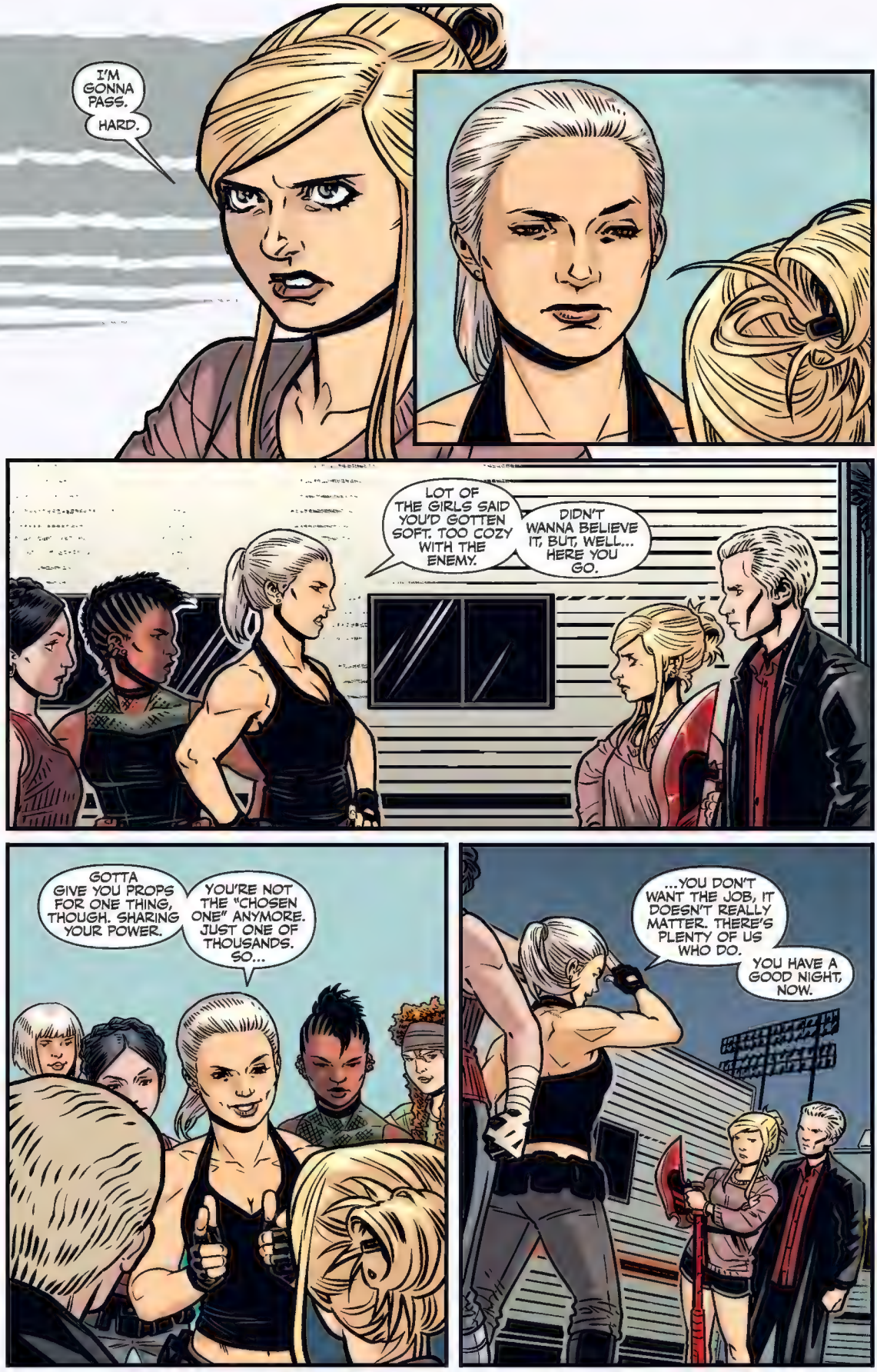

CANDLESTICK R.V. PARK.
CHEERS. I WAS BLOODY FAMISHED.
TOOK A WHILE FOR THEM TO GET THAT BLOOD HERE. I KNOW THERE'S A STATE OF EMERGENCY, BUT IT'S IN EVERYONE'S BEST INTEREST FOR VAMPIRES NOT TO BE RILED UP--
WHY DON'T YOU GO THE HELL BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM?
GET IT? "HELL"?
CHUG IT.
RIGHT.
YEAH, REAL CLEVER. THING IS, I WAS EXILED FROM MY HOME DIMENSION. I GO BACK, THEY'LL KILL ME.
NOT MY PROBLEM. NOT REALLY A PROBLEM AT ALL.
I LOST MY BROTHER IN THE TSUNAMI, YOU MONSTER. I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO BE TOLERANT, BUT THIS IS WHAT ACCEPTING THE LIKES OF YOU GETS US!

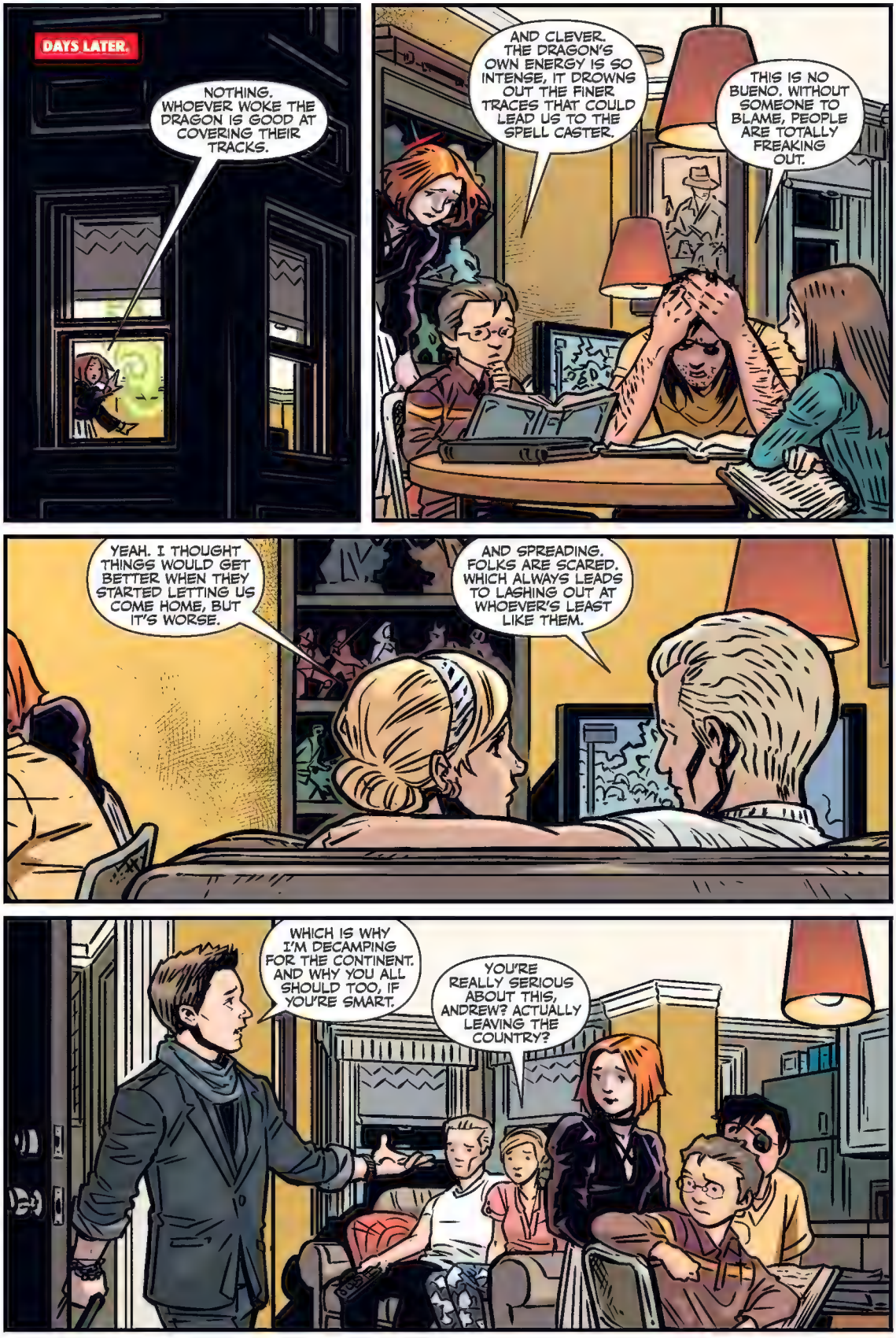
SURE, I FEEL SUPER ACCEPTED RIGHT ABOUT NOW--
KRAK
UNGH!
HIT 'IM AGAIN!
OH, I'M GONNA.
WHAT--
THAP
ALL RIGHT. I KNOW THIS PLACE SUCKS, BUT WE'RE ALL STUCK HERE TOGETHER, SO LET'S TRY TO GET ALONG.
TRUST ME, THIS ISN'T A FIGHT YOU WANT.
Y'KNOW WHAT? MAYBE IT IS.
YEAH. WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR KIND THINKING THAT YOU CAN WALK ALL OVER US JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE SUPER STRONG OR WHATEVER.
THERE'S A LOT MORE OF US THAN THERE ARE OF YOU.

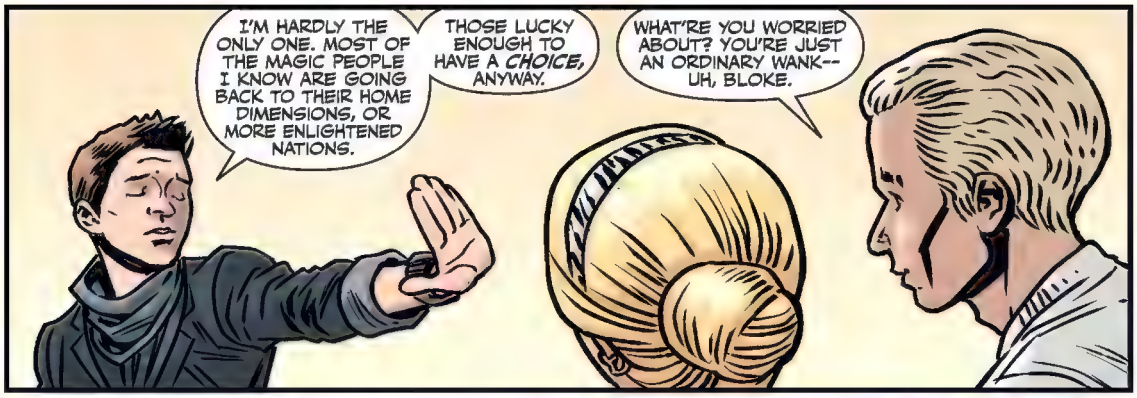
THERE ARE QUITE A FEW. AND I'M SUPPOSING YOU'D RATHER I NOT RIP ANY THROATS OUT.
YOU SUPPOSE RIGHT. TARGET THE RINGLEADERS. DON'T KILL THEM...
...BUT PUT 'EM DOWN.


GET THAT AXE AWAY FROM HER! WE CAN USE IT ON THE VAMPIRE!
RUNNING OUT OF NONLETHAL OPTIONS HERE, SLAYER!
GIVE ME A SECOND--
DISPERSE. NOW.
WAAAH!
LICENSED MILITARY CONTRACTORS. ANYONE STILL HERE IN THIRTY SECONDS IS GETTING DETAINED.
AND IF YOU THINK YOUR TRAILER'S BAD, WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE HOLDING CELLS.
THIS IS HOW IT STARTS. NEXT, THEY PUT US ALL IN F.E.M.A. CAMPS.
GO HOME, CHUCK. YOU'RE DRUNK.

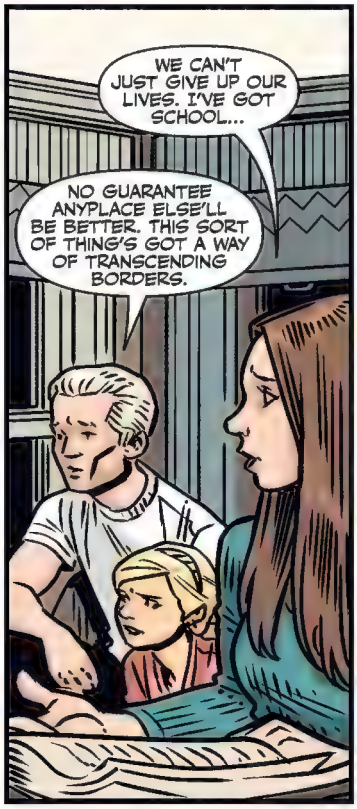

NAME'S JORDAN. WE MET ONCE FOR, LIKE, TWO SECONDS. I TRAINED WITH KENNEDY.
MAKES SENSE THEY'D CALL IN *DEEPSCAN* FOR PEACEKEEPING. THANKS, BY THE WAY. LUCKY FOR US YOU CAME ALONG, OR WE'D HAVE HAD TO HURT SOMEONE.
YOU'RE WELCOME. BUT IT WASN'T LUCK. WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU.
AND WE'RE NOT WITH DEEPSCAN ANYMORE. THE FEDS ARE FINALLY GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT THE SUPER-NATURAL...
...WAKING UP TO THE FACT THAT THERE'S AN ARMY OF SUPER-STRONG CHICKS WHOSE MISSION STATEMENT IS PROTECTING HUMANITY FROM... HOW'D IT GO AGAIN?
"THE VAMPIRES, THE DEMONS, AND THE FORCES OF DARKNESS...TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THEIR EVIL AND THE SWELL OF THEIR NUMBER."
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY RECRUITED US.
AND WE'RE RECRUITING *YOU.*
HANG ON. THE GOVERNMENT'S SIGNING UP MAGICALLY POWERED WOMEN TO HARASS OTHER SUPERNATURAL FOLK?
JUST ENFORCE THE CENSUS AND KEEP THE PEACE. IT *IS* KINDA WHAT OUR POWERS ARE *FOR.*
AFTER THE TSUNAMI--WHICH KILLED A BUNCH OF SLAYERS, TOO, IF YOU HADN'T HEARD-- A LOT OF US FEEL LIKE IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO BASICS.
SO, HOW ABOUT IT, O.G.?
YOU IN?


I'M GONNA PASS.
HARD.
LOT OF THE GIRLS SAID YOU'D GOTTEN SOFT. TOO COZY WITH THE ENEMY.
DIDN'T WANNA BELIEVE IT, BUT, WELL... HERE YOU GO.
GOTTA GIVE YOU PROPS FOR ONE THING, THOUGH. SHARING YOUR POWER.
YOU'RE NOT THE "CHOSEN ONE" ANYMORE. JUST ONE OF THOUSANDS. SO...
...YOU DON'T WANT THE JOB, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. THERE'S PLENTY OF US WHO DO.
YOU HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, NOW.

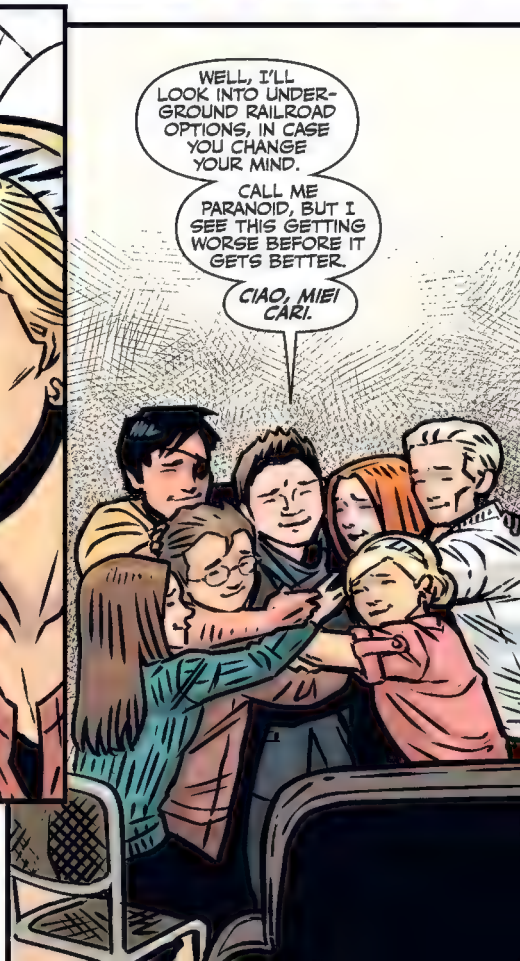

DAYS LATER.
NOTHING. WHOEVER WOKE THE DRAGON IS GOOD AT COVERING THEIR TRACKS.
AND CLEVER. THE DRAGON'S OWN ENERGY IS SO INTENSE, IT DROWNS OUT THE FINER TRACES THAT COULD LEAD US TO THE SPELL CASTER.
THIS IS NO BUENO. WITHOUT SOMEONE TO BLAME, PEOPLE ARE TOTALLY FREAKING OUT.
YEAH. I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD GET BETTER WHEN THEY STARTED LETTING US COME HOME, BUT IT'S WORSE.
AND SPREADING. FOLKS ARE SCARED. WHICH ALWAYS LEADS TO LASHING OUT AT WHOEVER'S LEAST LIKE THEM.
WHICH IS WHY I'M DECAMPING FOR THE CONTINENT. AND WHY YOU ALL SHOULD TOO, IF YOU'RE SMART.
YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, ANDREW? ACTUALLY LEAVING THE COUNTRY?

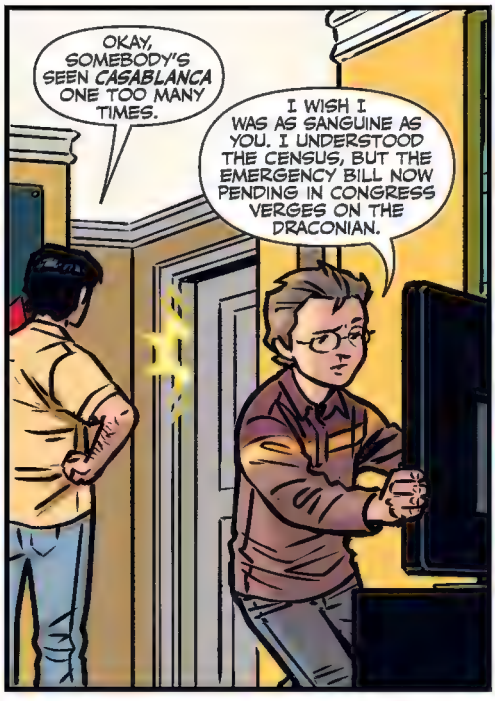

I'M HARDLY THE ONLY ONE. MOST OF THE MAGIC PEOPLE I KNOW ARE GOING BACK TO THEIR HOME DIMENSIONS, OR MORE ENLIGHTENED NATIONS.
THOSE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE A *CHOICE,* ANYWAY.
WHAT'RE YOU WORRIED ABOUT? YOU'RE JUST AN ORDINARY WANK-- UH, BLOKE.

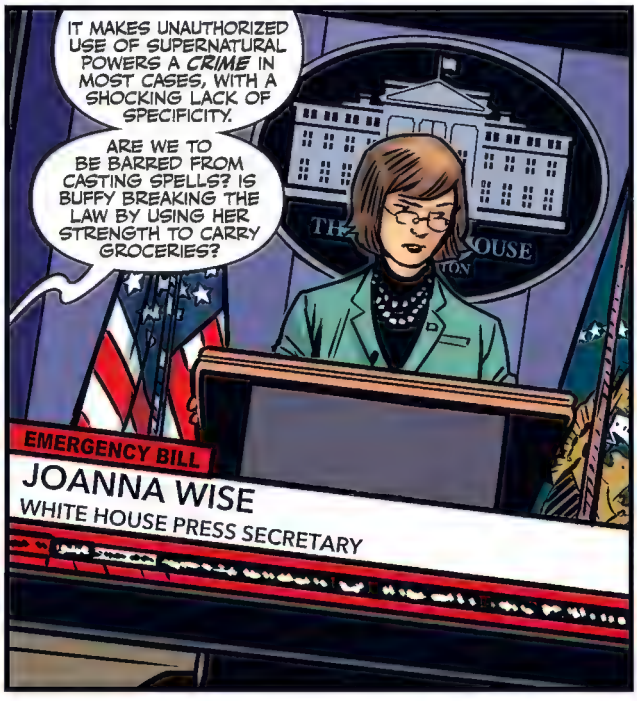
WHEN THE ANGRY MOB RUNS OUT OF MAGIC TARGETS, THEY'LL TURN ON THE MAGIC ADJACENT. AND I HAVE A HISTORY OF SUMMONING DEMONS.
I'M GOING TO ITALY BEFORE I GET PUT ON A NO-FLY LIST. YOU GUYS SHOULD COME. I'VE STILL GOT FRIENDS THERE, FROM OUR "NEW SLAYER OUTREACH" DAYS.

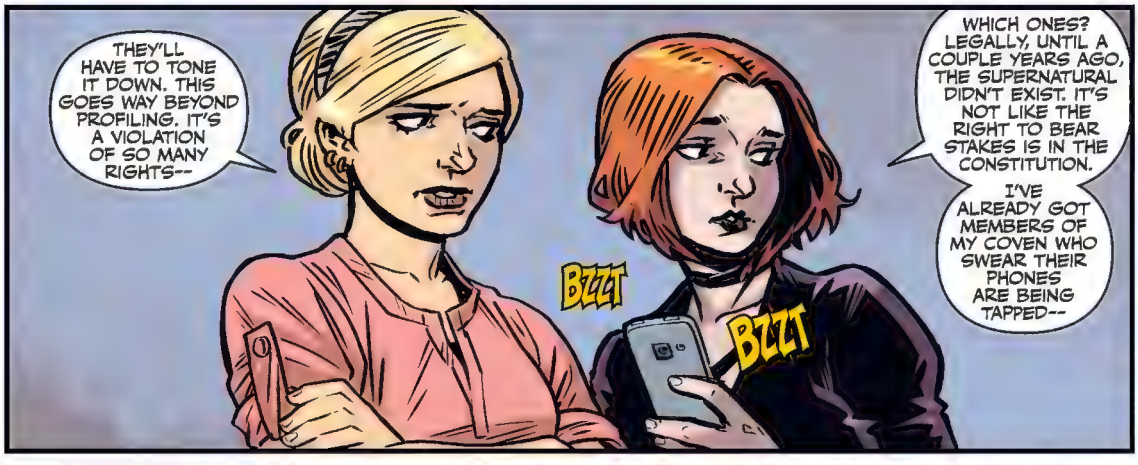

WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP OUR LIVES. I'VE GOT SCHOOL...
NO GUARANTEE ANYPLACE ELSE'LL BE BETTER. THIS SORT OF THING'S GOT A WAY OF TRANSCENDING BORDERS.

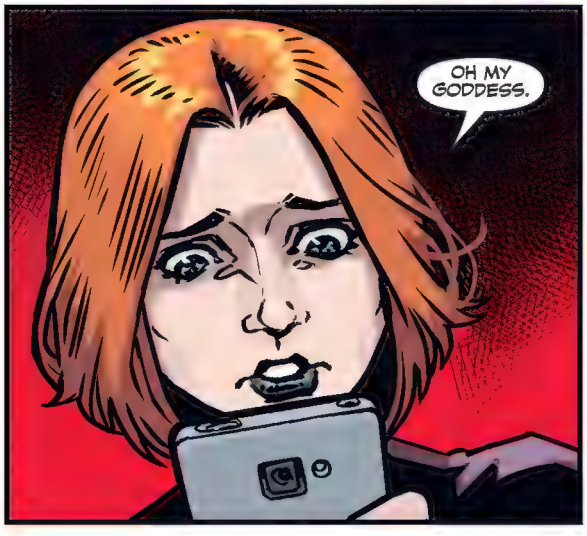
AND I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO RUN FROM A FIGHT.


WELL, I'LL LOOK INTO UNDER-GROUND RAILROAD OPTIONS, IN CASE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.
CALL ME PARANOID, BUT I SEE THIS GETTING WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER.
CIAO, MIEI CARI.


OKAY, SOMEBODY'S SEEN CASABLANCA ONE TOO MANY TIMES.
I WISH I WAS AS SANGUINE AS YOU. I UNDERSTOOD THE CENSUS, BUT THE EMERGENCY BILL NOW PENDING IN CONGRESS VERGES ON THE DRACONIAN.


IT MAKES UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SUPERNATURAL POWERS A CRIME IN MOST CASES, WITH A SHOCKING LACK OF SPECIFICITY.
ARE WE TO BE BARRED FROM CASTING SPELLS? IS BUFFY BREAKING THE LAW BY USING HER STRENGTH TO CARRY GROCERIES?
EMERGENCY BILL
JOANNA WISE
WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY


THEY'LL HAVE TO TONE IT DOWN. THIS GOES WAY BEYOND PROFILING. IT'S A VIOLATION OF SO MANY RIGHTS--
BZZT
BZZT
WHICH ONES? LEGALLY, UNTIL A COUPLE YEARS AGO, THE SUPERNATURAL DIDN'T EXIST. IT'S NOT LIKE THE RIGHT TO BEAR STAKES IS IN THE CONSTITUTION.
I'VE ALREADY GOT MEMBERS OF MY COVEN WHO SWEAR THEIR PHONES ARE BEING TAPPED--

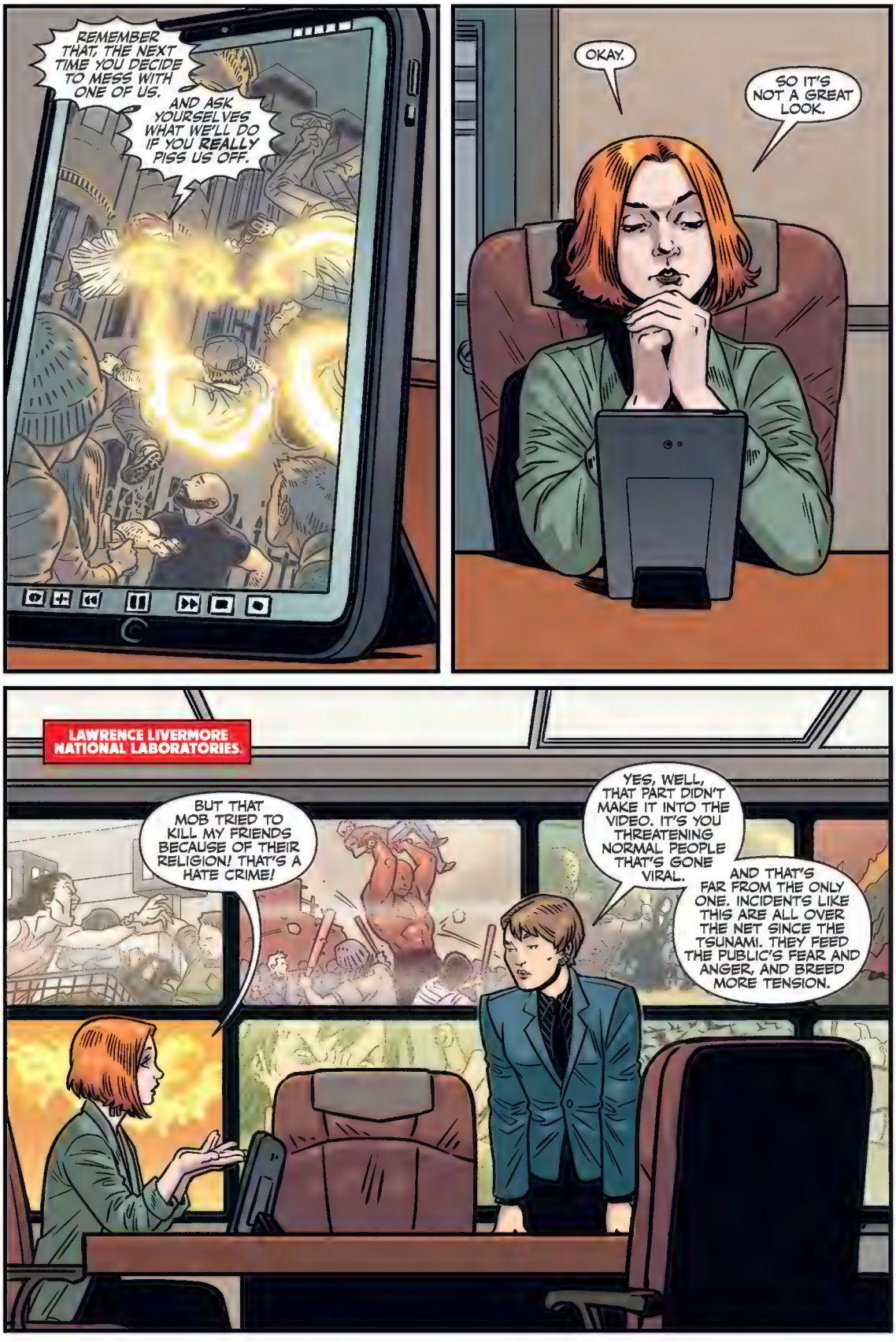

OH MY GODDESS.

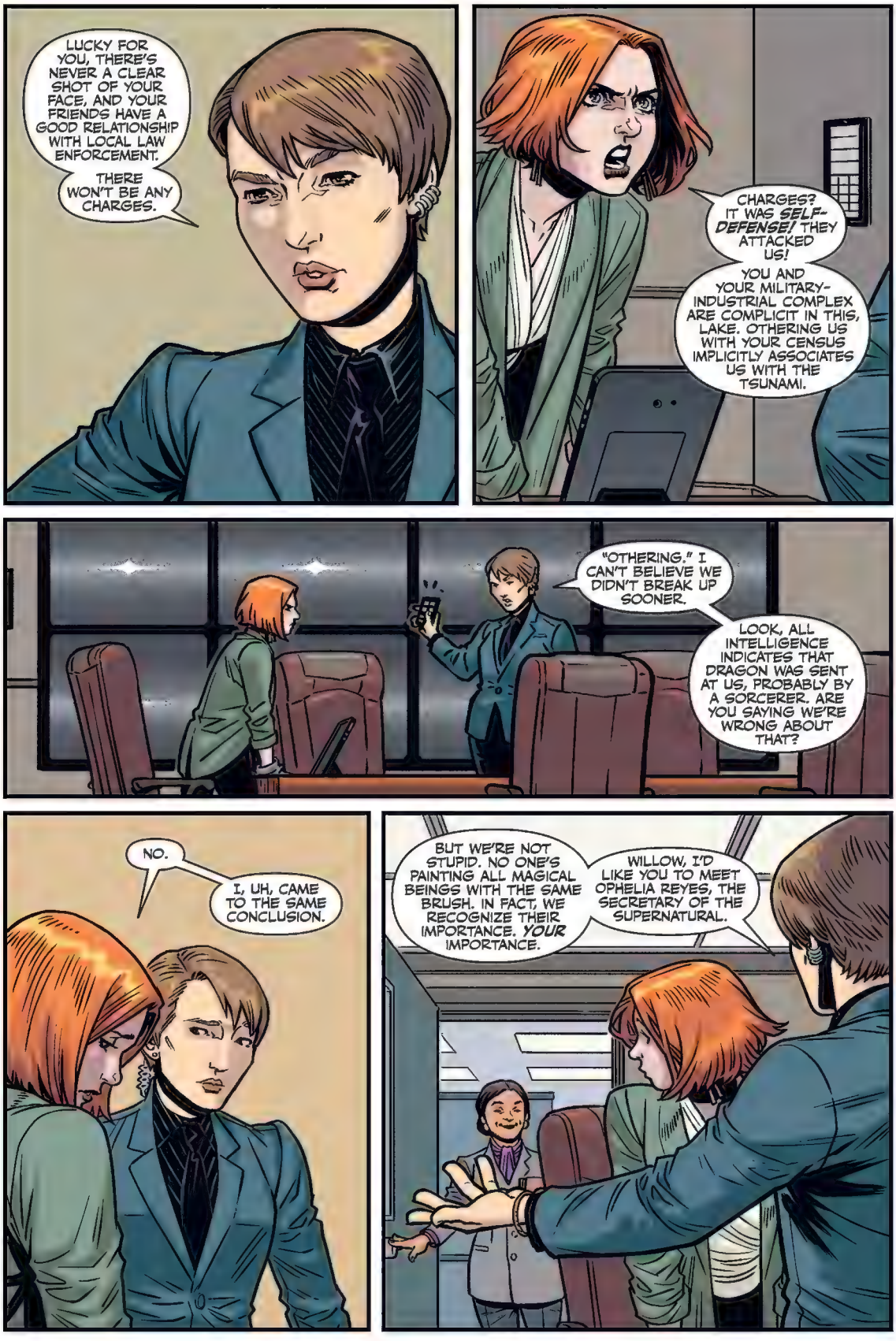
I HAVE TO GO.

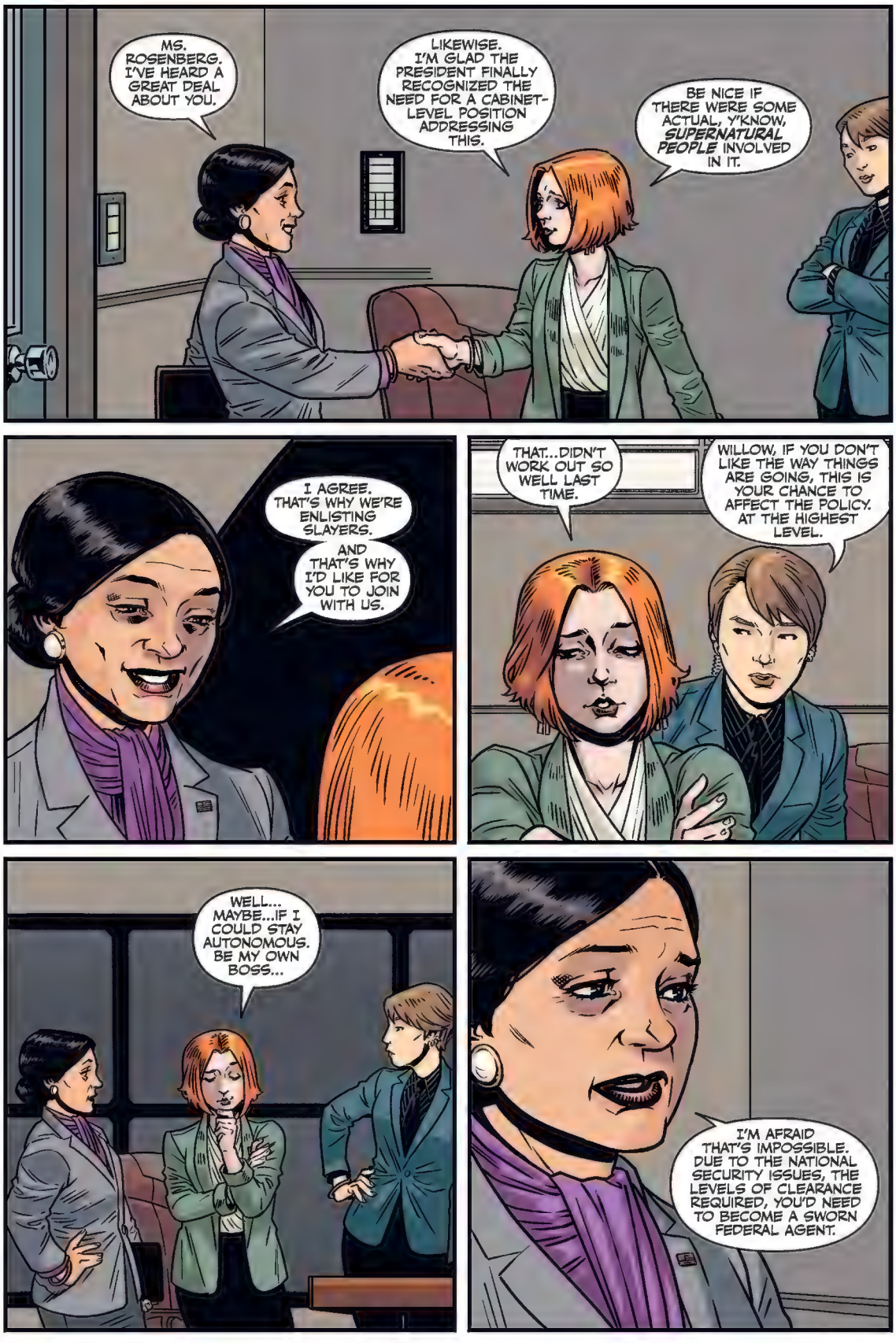
APARTMENT OF CALLIOPE STRACHAN AND LINDA MARTIN.
KRASH
AAA!
THEY'RE THROWING THINGS THROUGH THE WINDOW!
OKAY, MS. STRACHAN, TAKE COVER. I'VE NOTIFIED POLICE, BUT WE'RE STRETCHED THIN SINCE THE TSUNAMI. ARE THEY BREAKING IN?
I HEAR THEM POUNDING ON THE DOOR, BUT IT'S LOCKED.
BARRICADE IT IF YOU CAN, MA'AM. I HAVE TO ASK IF ANY OF YOU ARE ENGAGED IN SUPERNATURAL ACTIVITY.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? WE'RE WICCANS. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE AFTER US!
ARE YOU CASTING SPELLS?
NO! WE CAN'T EVEN CONJURE FOXFIRE! WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH--
KSSSH
AIIEE!

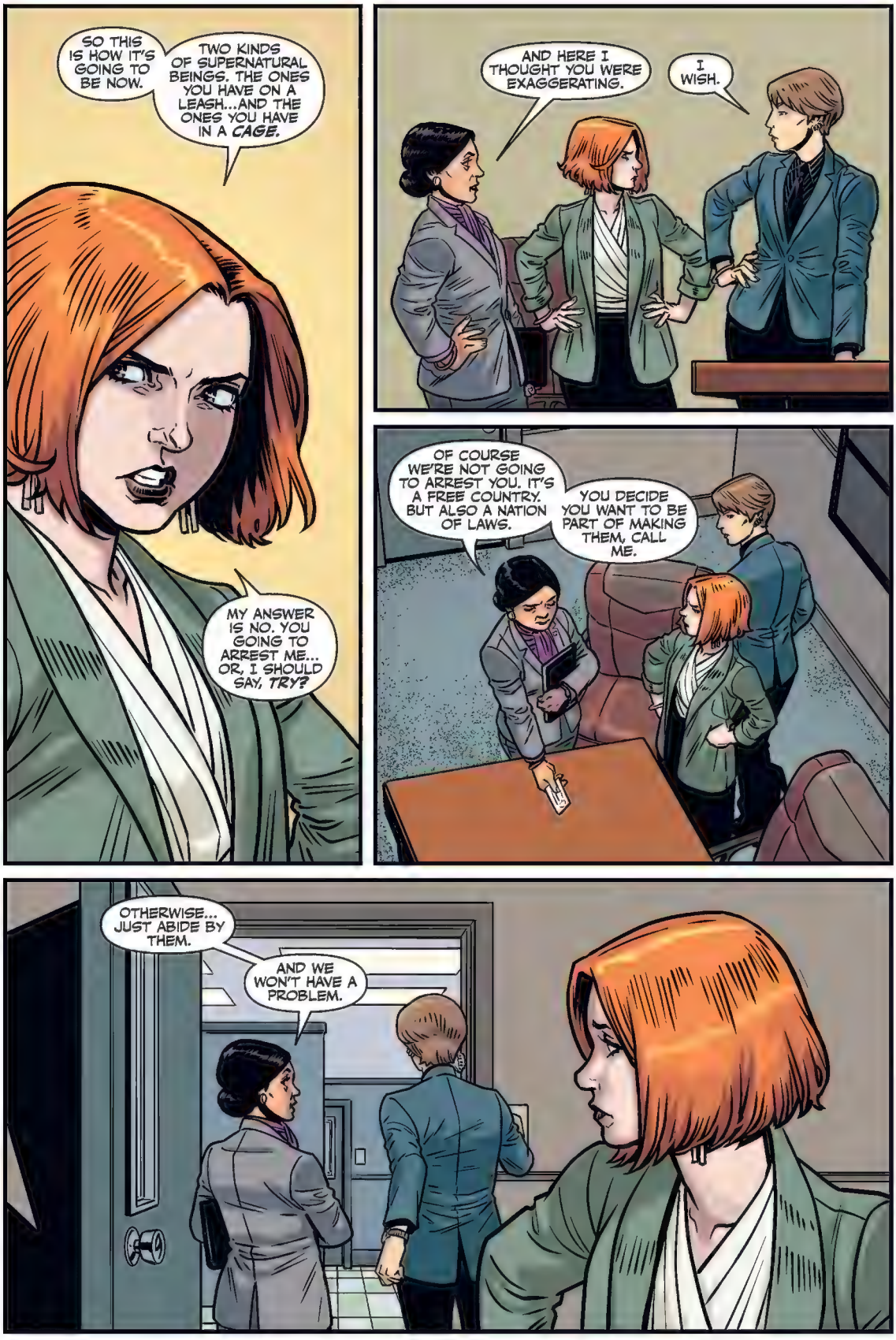
WE HAVE TO GET OUT!
THEY'RE WAITING FOR US! THEY--I THINK THEY WANT US DEAD!
THEY'RE NOT COMING OUT. BILLY, YOU SAID THEY'D COME OUT! I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYBODY!
THEIR CHOICE. ANYWAY, THAT'S WHAT YOU DO WITH WITCHES, RIGHT? BURN 'EM.
WE HAVE TO LEAVE! NOW!
LINDA, WAIT. YOU'RE NOT EVEN IN THE COVEN. LET ME GO FIRST--
NO.
LET ME.

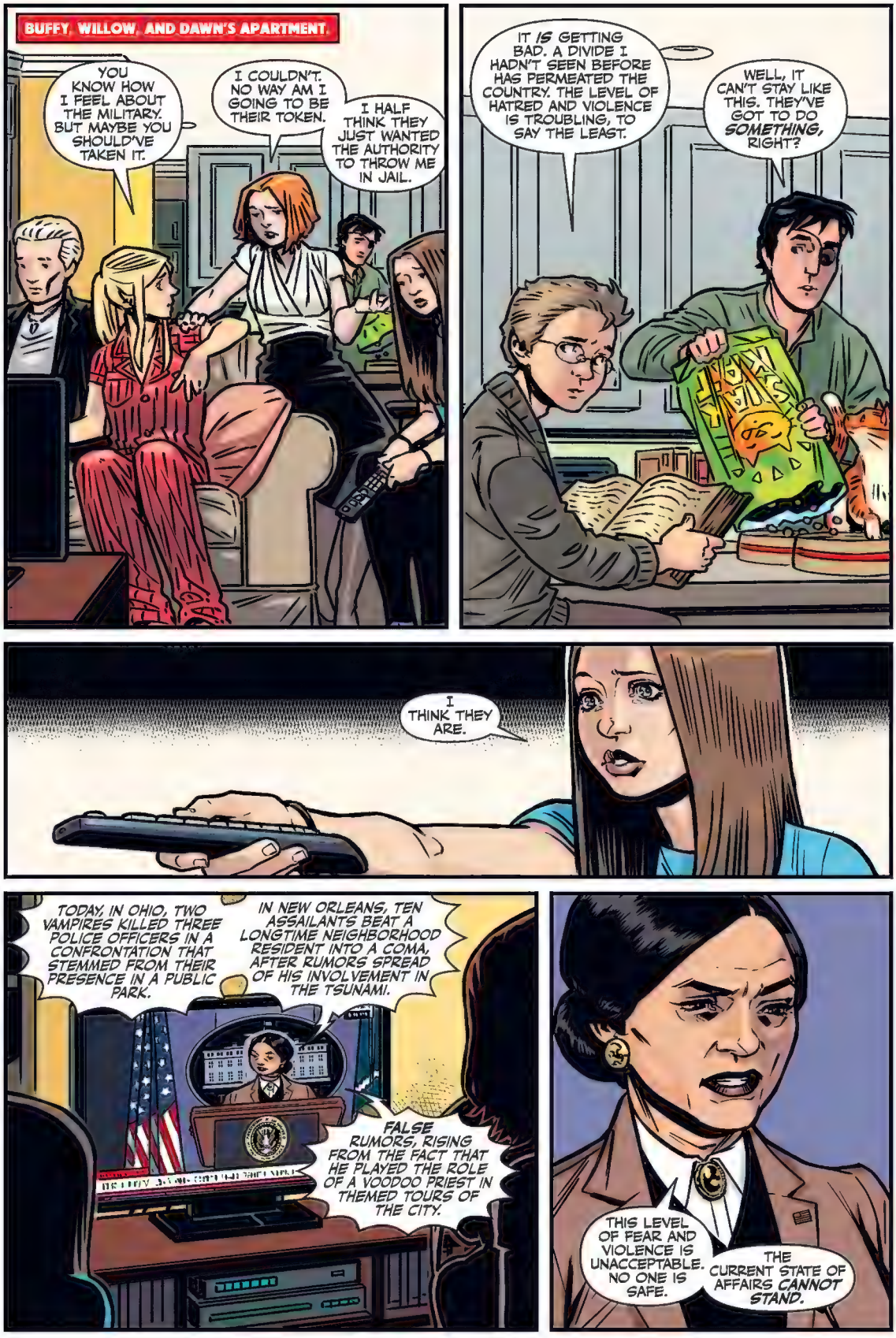
WHOOSH
STAY HERE.
THESE MONSTERS WANTED TO PICK A FIGHT WITH WITCHES?
THEY'VE GOT ONE.
OH, THIS ISN'T GOOD.
DO YOU PEOPLE EVEN KNOW WHAT WICCANS ARE?
MOST OF THEM ARE REGULAR PEOPLE, JUST LIKE YOU...
...BUT SOME ARE LIKE ME.

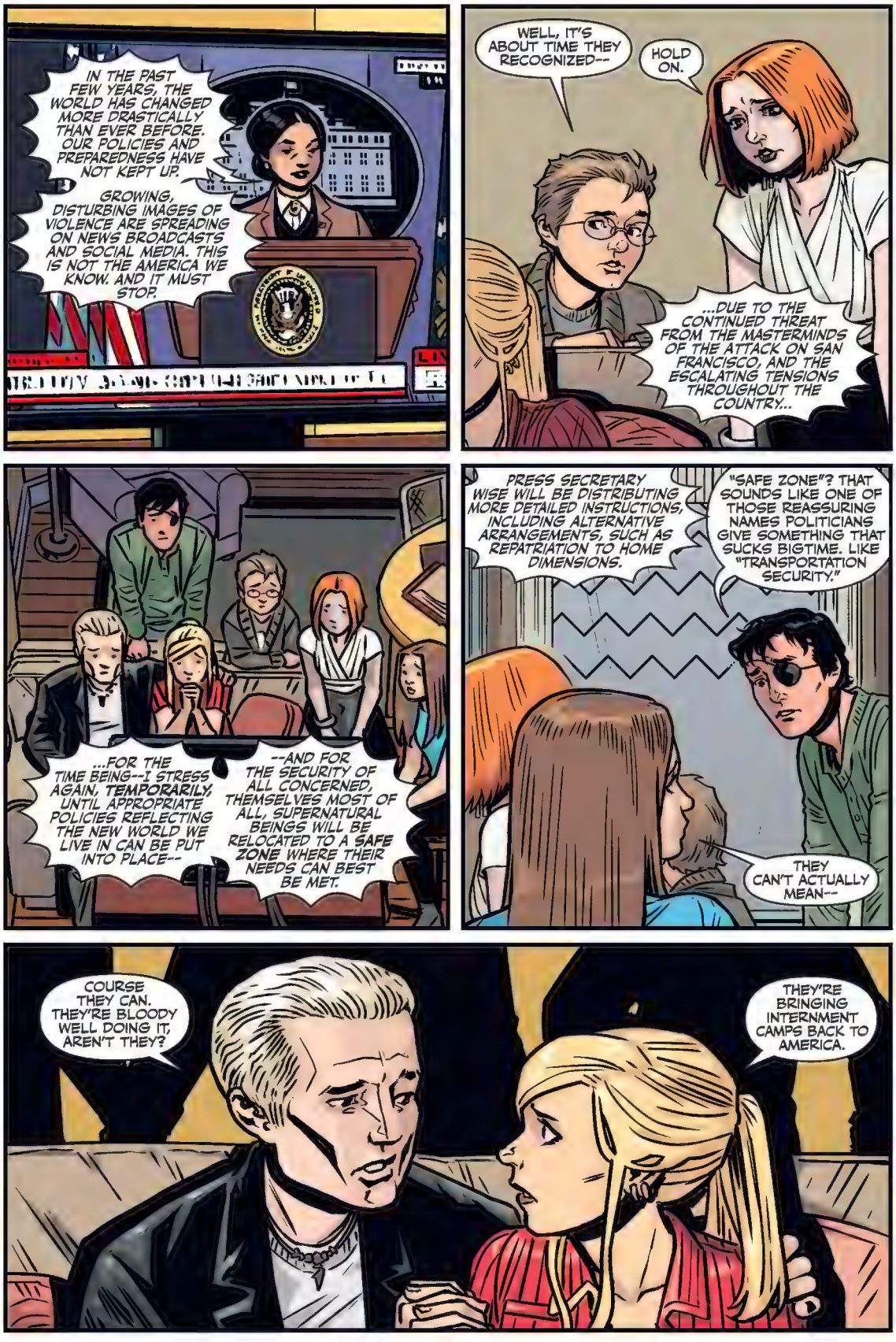

REMEMBER THAT, THE NEXT TIME YOU DECIDE TO MESS WITH ONE OF US.
AND ASK YOURSELVES WHAT WE'LL DO IF YOU REALLY PISS US OFF.
OKAY.
SO IT'S NOT A GREAT LOOK.
LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORIES
BUT THAT MOB TRIED TO KILL MY FRIENDS BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGION! THAT'S A HATE CRIME!
YES, WELL, THAT PART DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE VIDEO. IT'S YOU THREATENING NORMAL PEOPLE THAT'S GONE VIRAL.
AND THAT'S FAR FROM THE ONLY ONE. INCIDENTS LIKE THIS ARE ALL OVER THE NET SINCE THE TSUNAMI. THEY FEED THE PUBLIC'S FEAR AND ANGER, AND BREED MORE TENSION.


LUCKY FOR YOU, THERE'S NEVER A CLEAR SHOT OF YOUR FACE, AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.
THERE WON'T BE ANY CHARGES.
CHARGES? IT WAS SELF-DEFENSE! THEY ATTACKED US!
YOU AND YOUR MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ARE COMPLICIT IN THIS, LAKE. OTHERING US WITH YOUR CENSUS IMPLICITLY ASSOCIATES US WITH THE TSUNAMI.
"OTHERING." I CAN'T BELIEVE WE DIDN'T BREAK UP SOONER.
LOOK, ALL INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT DRAGON WAS SENT AT US, PROBABLY BY A SORCERER. ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT?
NO.
I, UH, CAME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION.
BUT WE'RE NOT STUPID. NO ONE'S PAINTING ALL MAGICAL BEINGS WITH THE SAME BRUSH. IN FACT, WE RECOGNIZE THEIR IMPORTANCE. YOUR IMPORTANCE.
WILLOW, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET OPHELIA REYES, THE SECRETARY OF THE SUPERNATURAL.


MS. ROSENBERG. I'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU.
LIKEWISE. I'M GLAD THE PRESIDENT FINALLY RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A CABINET-LEVEL POSITION ADDRESSING THIS.
BE NICE IF THERE WERE SOME ACTUAL, Y'KNOW, SUPERNATURAL PEOPLE INVOLVED IN IT.
I AGREE. THAT'S WHY WE'RE ENLISTING SLAYERS.
AND THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO JOIN WITH US.
THAT...DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL LAST TIME.
WILLOW, IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO AFFECT THE POLICY. AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.
WELL... MAYBE...IF I COULD STAY AUTONOMOUS. BE MY OWN BOSS...
I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. DUE TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES, THE LEVELS OF CLEARANCE REQUIRED, YOU'D NEED TO BECOME A SWORN FEDERAL AGENT.


SO THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE NOW.
TWO KINDS OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS. THE ONES YOU HAVE ON A LEASH...AND THE ONES YOU HAVE IN A CAGE.
MY ANSWER IS NO. YOU GOING TO ARREST ME... OR, I SHOULD SAY, TRY?
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE EXAGGERATING.
I WISH.
OF COURSE WE'RE NOT GOING TO ARREST YOU. IT'S A FREE COUNTRY. BUT ALSO A NATION OF LAWS.
YOU DECIDE YOU WANT TO BE PART OF MAKING THEM, CALL ME.
OTHERWISE... JUST ABIDE BY THEM.
AND WE WON'T HAVE A PROBLEM.

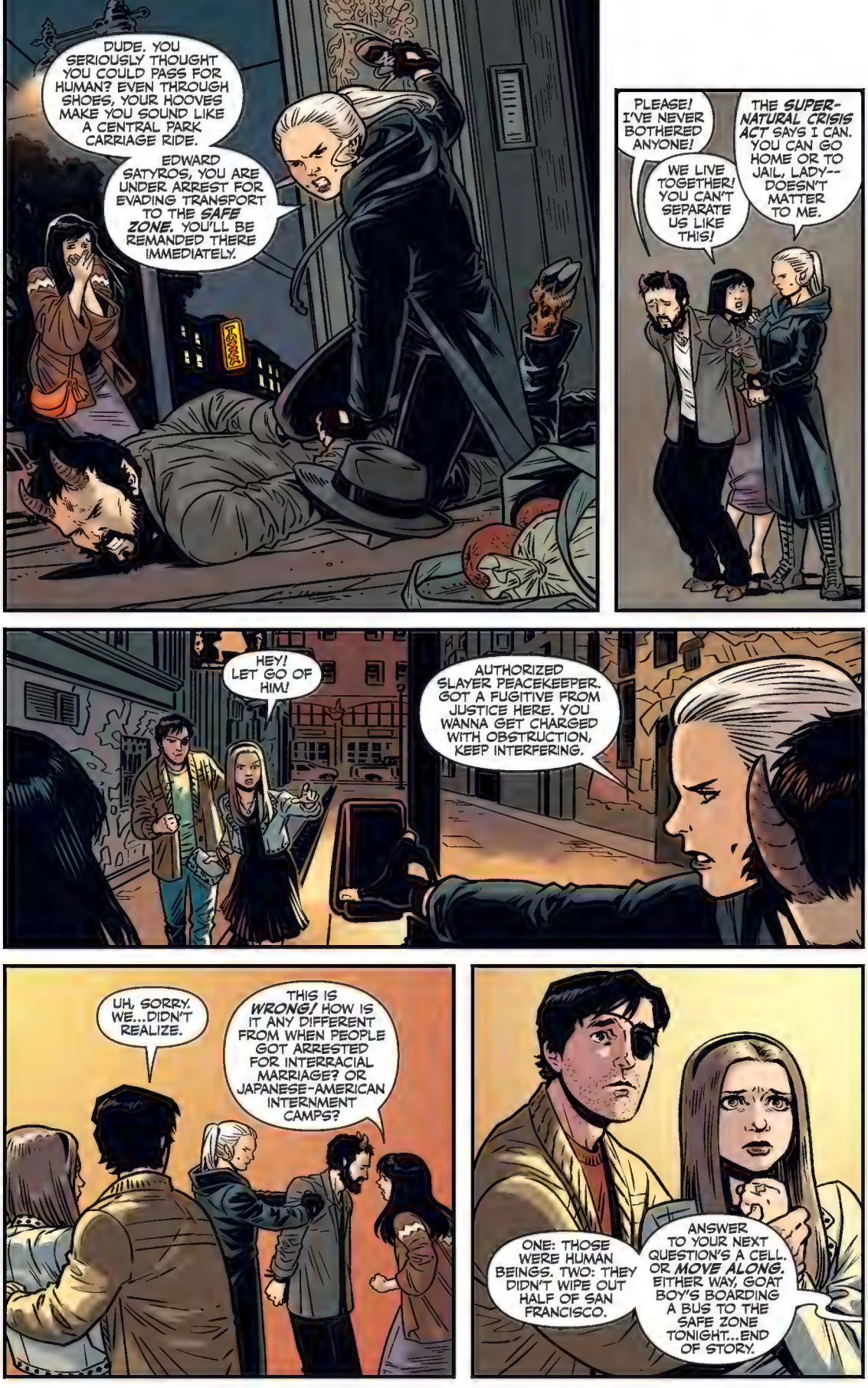

BUFFY, WILLOW, AND DAWN'S APARTMENT.
YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE MILITARY. BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN IT.
I COULDN'T. NO WAY AM I GOING TO BE THEIR TOKEN.
I HALF THINK THEY JUST WANTED THE AUTHORITY TO THROW ME IN JAIL.
IT *IS* GETTING BAD. A DIVIDE I HADN'T SEEN BEFORE HAS PERMEATED THE COUNTRY. THE LEVEL OF HATRED AND VIOLENCE IS TROUBLING, TO SAY THE LEAST.
WELL, IT CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS. THEY'VE GOT TO DO *SOMETHING*, RIGHT?
I THINK THEY ARE.
TODAY, IN OHIO, TWO VAMPIRES KILLED THREE POLICE OFFICERS IN A CONFRONTATION THAT STEMMED FROM THEIR PRESENCE IN A PUBLIC PARK.
IN NEW ORLEANS, TEN ASSAILANTS BEAT A LONGTIME NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT INTO A COMA, AFTER RUMORS SPREAD OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE TSUNAMI.
FALSE RUMORS, RISING FROM THE FACT THAT HE PLAYED THE ROLE OF A VOODOO PRIEST IN THEMED TOURS OF THE CITY.
THIS LEVEL OF FEAR AND VIOLENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE. NO ONE IS SAFE.
THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS *CANNOT STAND.*

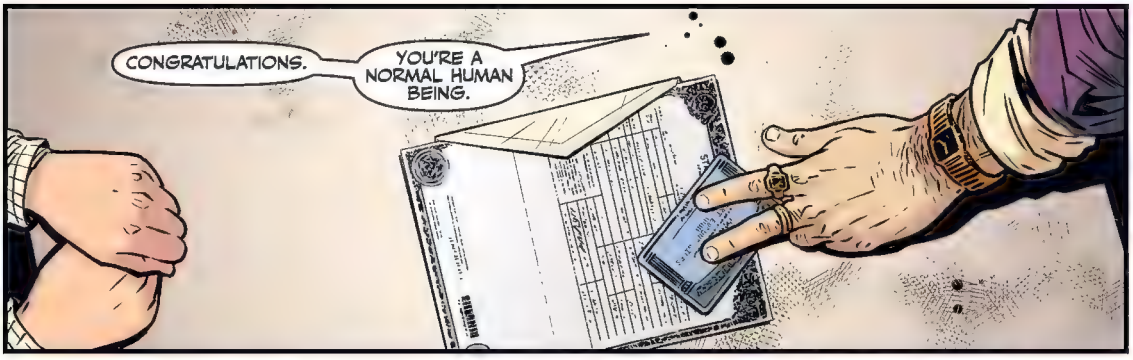

IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE WORLD HAS CHANGED MORE DRASTICALLY THAN EVER BEFORE. OUR POLICIES AND PREPAREDNESS HAVE NOT KEPT UP.
GROWING, DISTURBING IMAGES OF VIOLENCE ARE SPREADING ON NEWS BROADCASTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA. THIS IS NOT THE AMERICA WE KNOW. AND IT MUST STOP.
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY RECOGNIZED--
HOLD ON.
...DUE TO THE CONTINUED THREAT FROM THE MASTERMINDS OF THE ATTACK ON SAN FRANCISCO, AND THE ESCALATING TENSIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY...
...FOR THE TIME BEING--I STRESS AGAIN, TEMPORARILY, UNTIL APPROPRIATE POLICIES REFLECTING THE NEW WORLD WE LIVE IN CAN BE PUT INTO PLACE--
--AND FOR THE SECURITY OF ALL CONCERNED, THEMSELVES MOST OF ALL, SUPERNATURAL BEINGS WILL BE RELOCATED TO A SAFE ZONE WHERE THEIR NEEDS CAN BEST BE MET.
PRESS SECRETARY WISE WILL BE DISTRIBUTING MORE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, SUCH AS REPATRIATION TO HOME DIMENSIONS.
"SAFE ZONE"? THAT SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THOSE REASSURING NAMES POLITICIANS GIVE SOMETHING THAT SUCKS BIGTIME. LIKE "TRANSPORTATION SECURITY."
THEY CAN'T ACTUALLY MEAN--
COURSE THEY CAN. THEY'RE BLOODY WELL DOING IT, AREN'T THEY?
THEY'RE BRINGING INTERNMENT CAMPS BACK TO AMERICA.

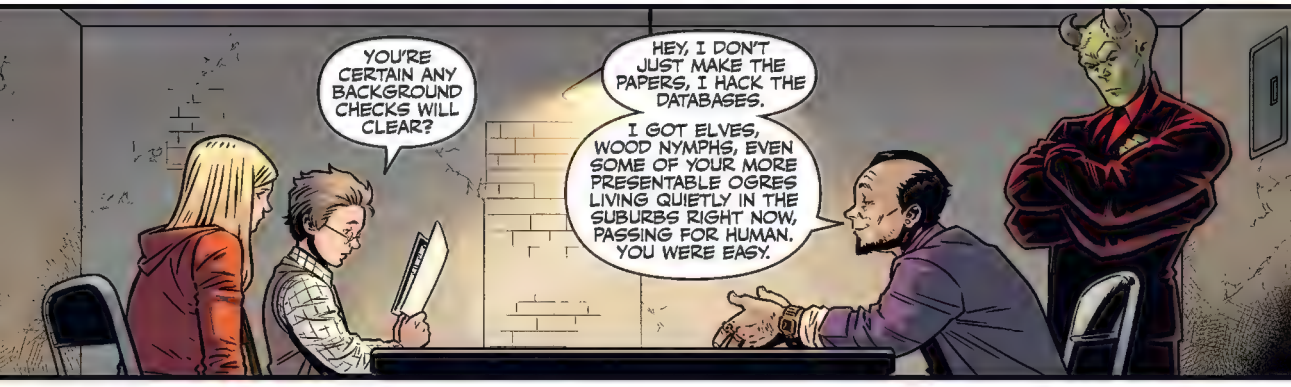
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
IT'S NOTHING. THE WIND. WE'RE JUST BEING PARANOID BECAUSE OF ALL THE--
TS BOOKS
PART THREE
A HOUSE DIVIDED

OH GOD, LOOK!
RUN!

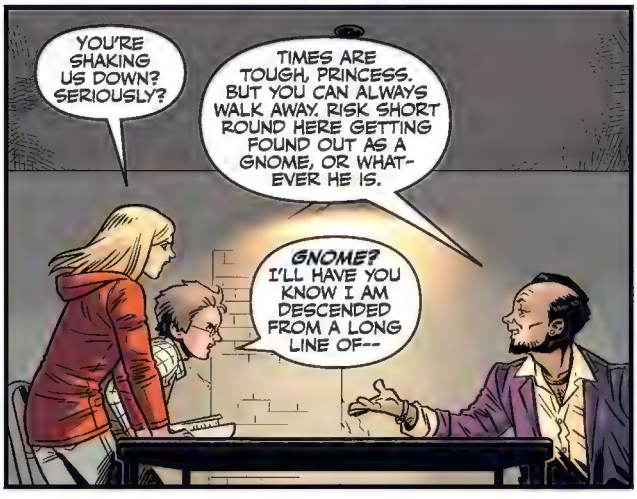
RUN!
KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK
EEEEE!


DUDE. YOU SERIOUSLY THOUGHT YOU COULD PASS FOR HUMAN? EVEN THROUGH SHOES, YOUR HOOVES MAKE YOU SOUND LIKE A CENTRAL PARK CARRIAGE RIDE.
EDWARD SATYROS, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR EVADING TRANSPORT TO THE SAFE ZONE. YOU'LL BE REMANDED THERE IMMEDIATELY.
PLEASE! I'VE NEVER BOTHERED ANYONE!
WE LIVE TOGETHER! YOU CAN'T SEPARATE US LIKE THIS!
THE SUPER-NATURAL CRISIS ACT SAYS I CAN. YOU CAN GO HOME OR TO JAIL, LADY-- DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
HEY! LET GO OF HIM!
AUTHORIZED SLAYER PEACEKEEPER. GOT A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE HERE. YOU WANNA GET CHARGED WITH OBSTRUCTION, KEEP INTERFERING.
UH, SORRY. WE...DIDN'T REALIZE.
THIS IS WRONG! HOW IS IT ANY DIFFERENT FROM WHEN PEOPLE GOT ARRESTED FOR INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE? OR JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT CAMPS?
ONE: THOSE WERE HUMAN BEINGS. TWO: THEY DIDN'T WIPE OUT HALF OF SAN FRANCISCO.
ANSWER TO YOUR NEXT QUESTION'S A CELL. OR MOVE ALONG. EITHER WAY, GOAT BOY'S BOARDING A BUS TO THE SAFE ZONE TONIGHT...END OF STORY.


CONGRATULATIONS.
YOU'RE A NORMAL HUMAN BEING.

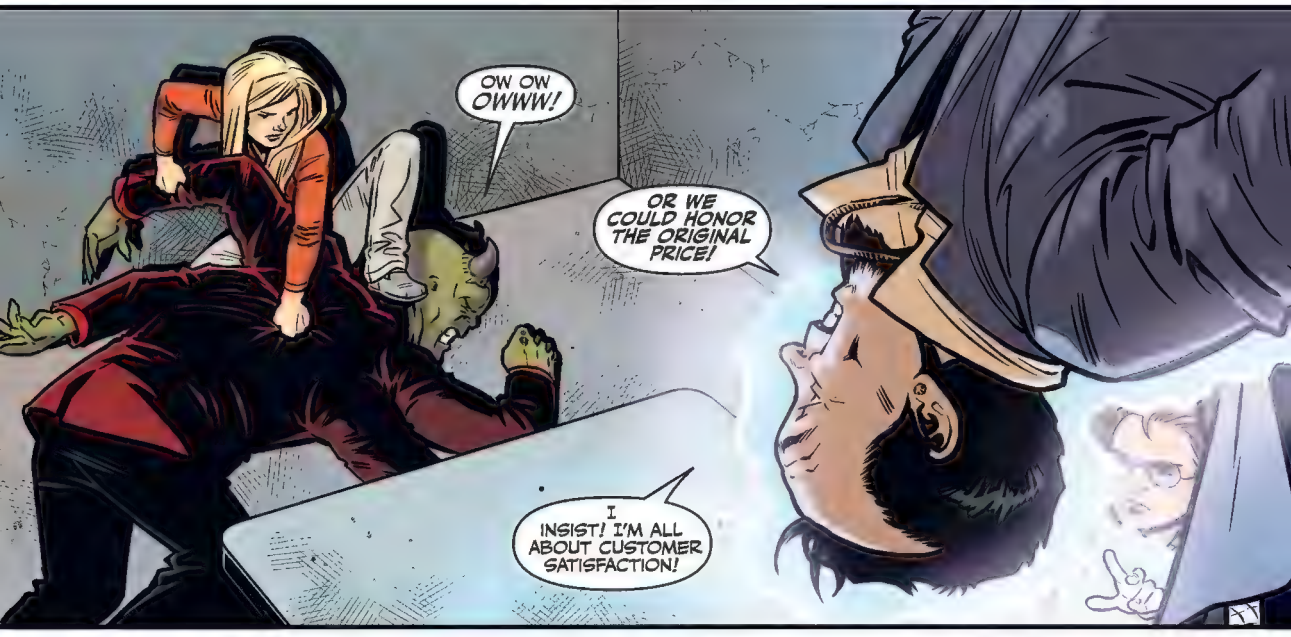

YOU'RE CERTAIN ANY BACKGROUND CHECKS WILL CLEAR?
HEY, I DON'T JUST MAKE THE PAPERS, I HACK THE DATABASES.
I GOT ELVES, WOOD NYMPHS, EVEN SOME OF YOUR MORE PRESENTABLE OGRES LIVING QUIETLY IN THE SUBURBS RIGHT NOW, PASSING FOR HUMAN. YOU WERE EASY.

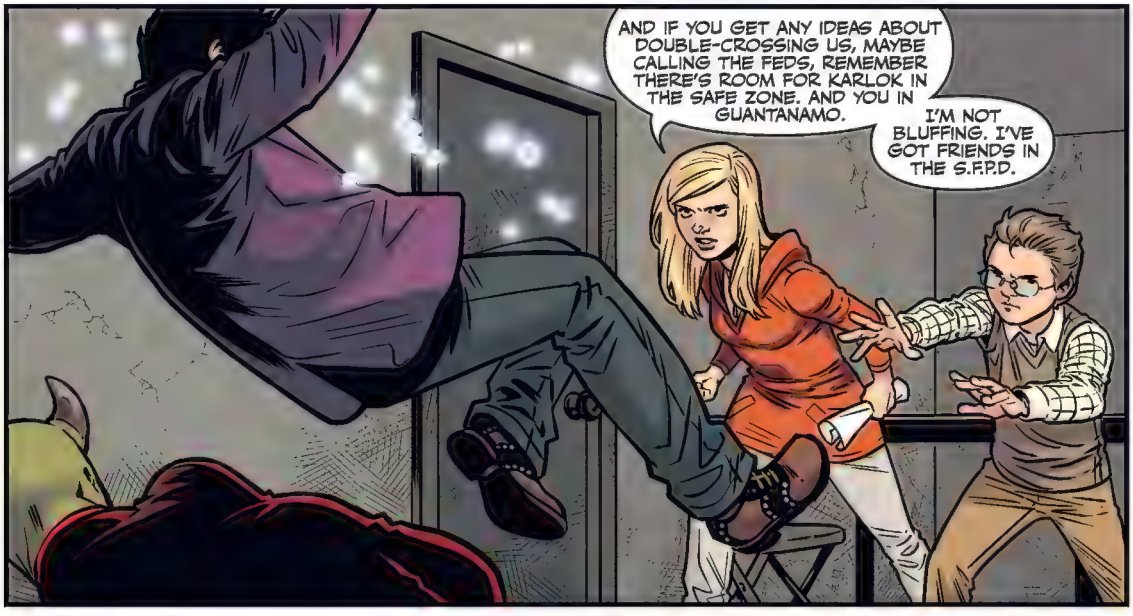
FINE. HERE.
YEAH, MINOR HICCUP. PRICE WENT UP SINCE WE TALKED. SUPPLY-AND-DEMAND KINDA THING.

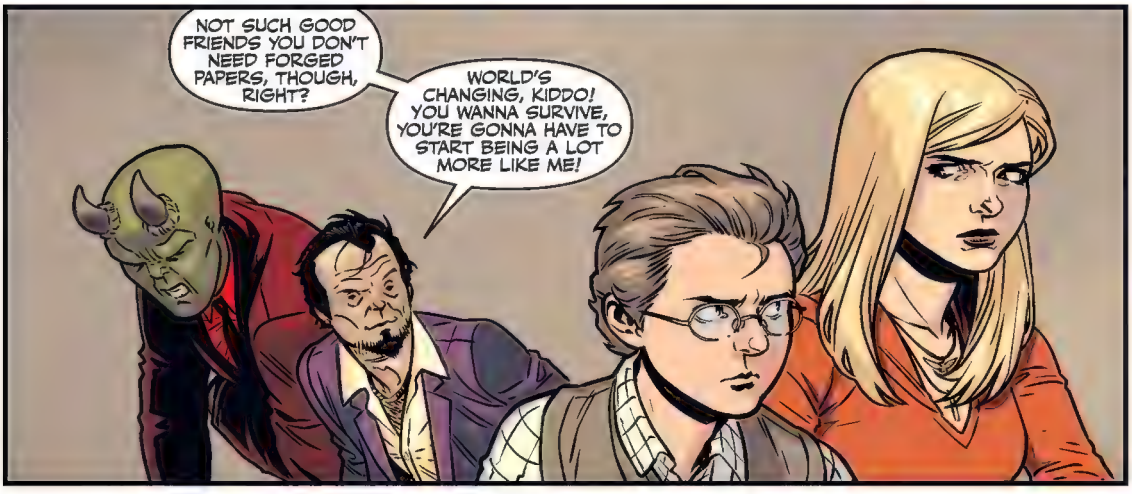

YOU'RE SHAKING US DOWN? SERIOUSLY?
TIMES ARE TOUGH, PRINCESS. BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS WALK AWAY. RISK SHORT ROUND HERE GETTING FOUND OUT AS A GNOME, OR WHATEVER HE IS.
GNOME? I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I AM DESCENDED FROM A LONG LINE OF--

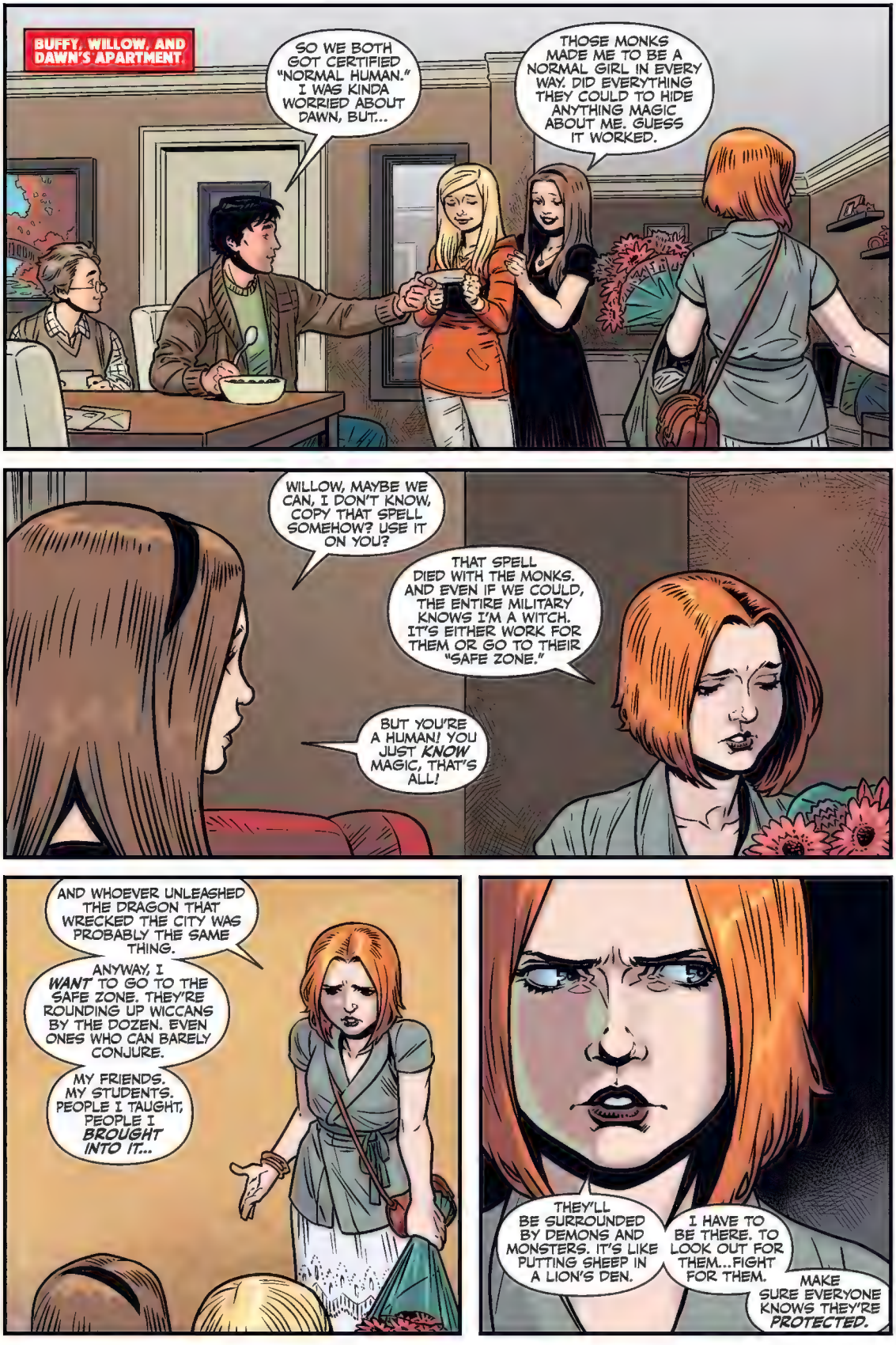
OR YOU COULD JUST BE KARLOK'S DINNER.

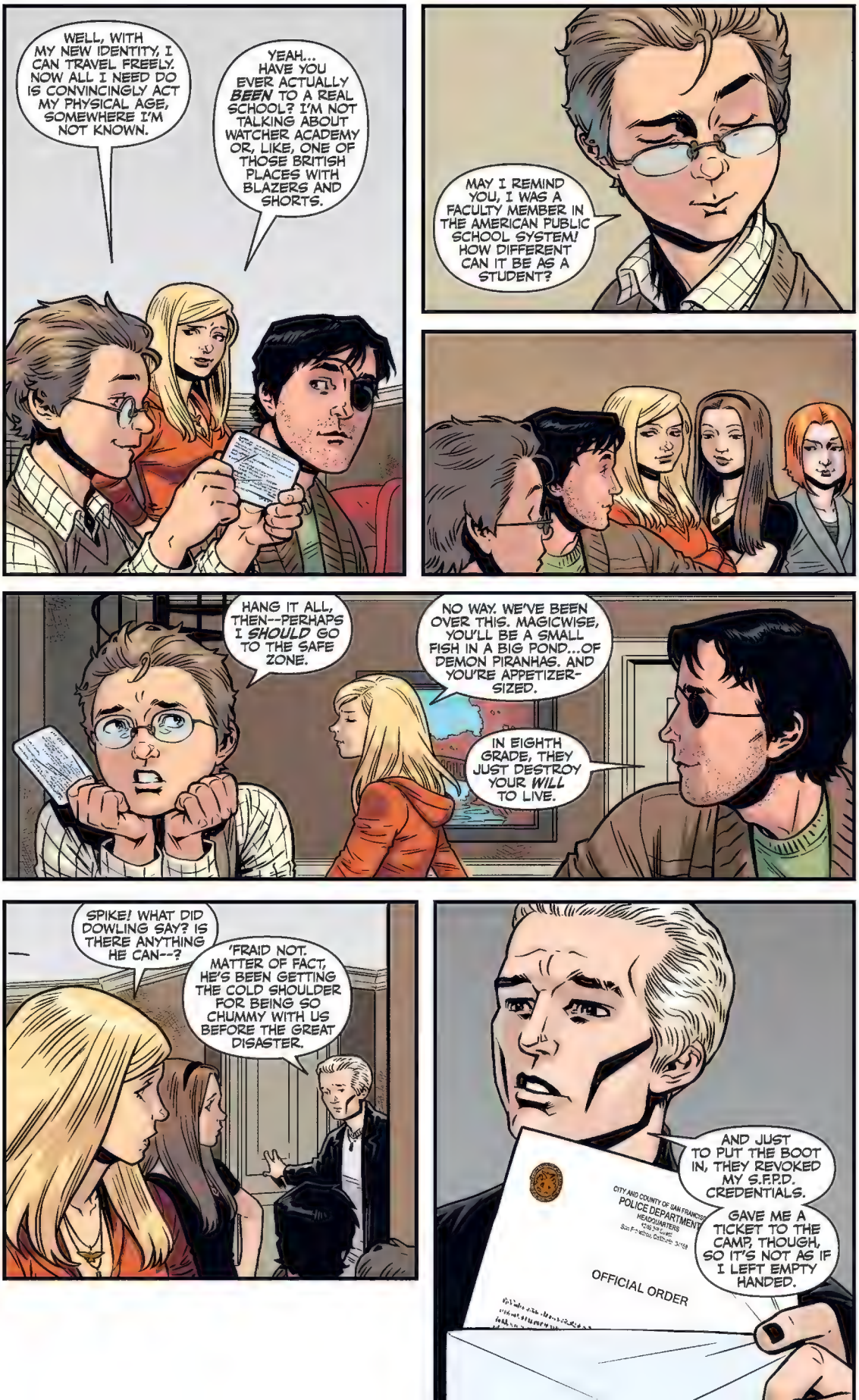
I DON'T CARE FOR YOUR TONE, SIR.
KARLOK! KILL!
HRRAAGGH!
YOU THINK EXTRA HANDS ARE AN ADVANTAGE.
I SEE ONE MORE THING TO BREAK.

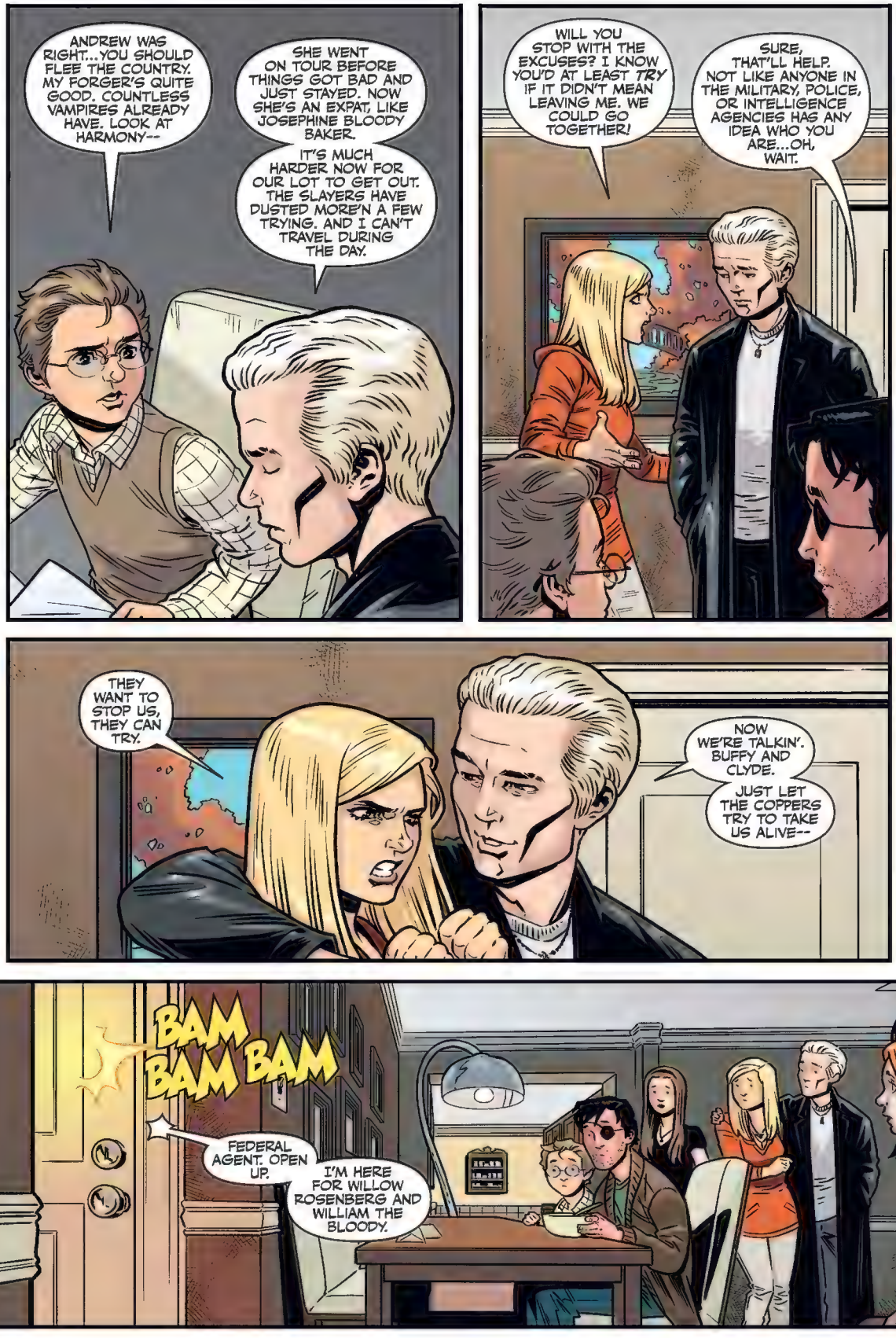

OW OW OWWW!
OR WE COULD HONOR THE ORIGINAL PRICE!
I INSIST! I'M ALL ABOUT CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!

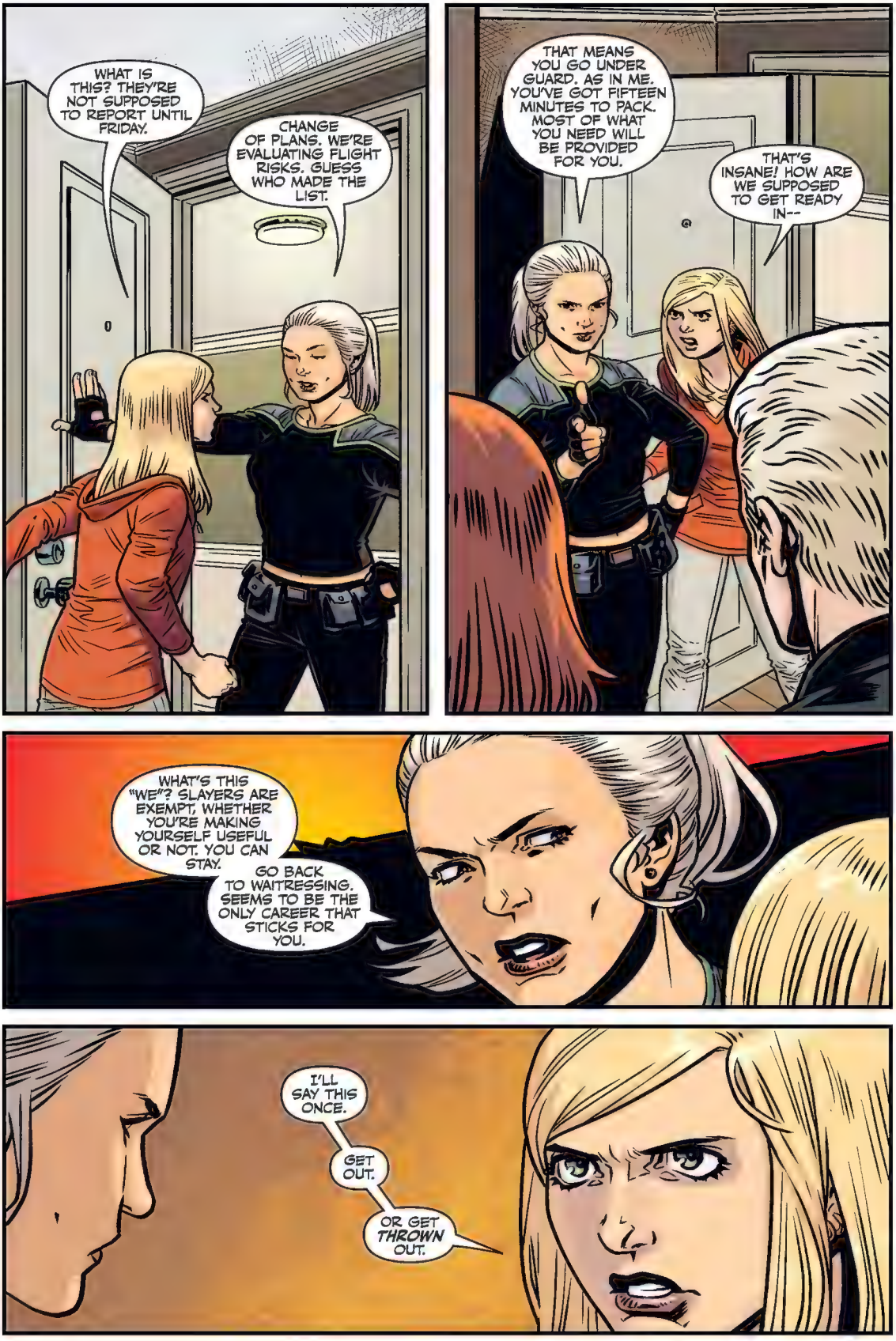

AND IF YOU GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT DOUBLE-CROSSING US, MAYBE CALLING THE FEDS, REMEMBER THERE'S ROOM FOR KARLOK IN THE SAFE ZONE. AND YOU IN GUANTANAMO.
I'M NOT BLUFFING. I'VE GOT FRIENDS IN THE S.F.P.D.

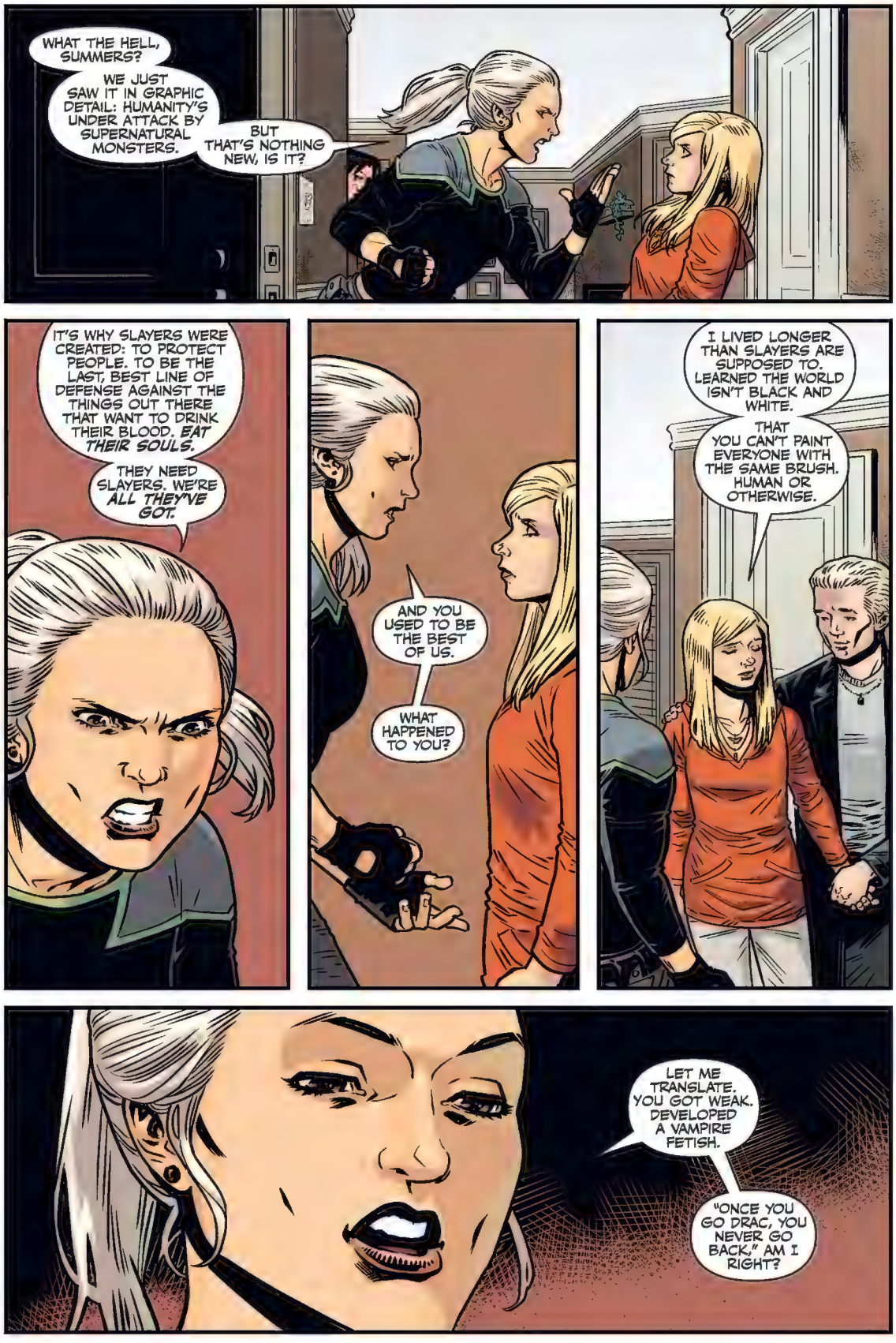

NOT SUCH GOOD FRIENDS YOU DON'T NEED FORGED PAPERS, THOUGH, RIGHT?
WORLD'S CHANGING, KIDDO! YOU WANNA SURVIVE, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO START BEING A LOT MORE LIKE ME!


BUFFY, WILLOW, AND DAWN'S APARTMENT
SO WE BOTH GOT CERTIFIED "NORMAL HUMAN." I WAS KINDA WORRIED ABOUT DAWN, BUT...
THOSE MONKS MADE ME TO BE A NORMAL GIRL IN EVERY WAY. DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO HIDE ANYTHING MAGIC ABOUT ME. GUESS IT WORKED.
WILLOW, MAYBE WE CAN, I DON'T KNOW, COPY THAT SPELL SOMEHOW? USE IT ON YOU?
THAT SPELL DIED WITH THE MONKS. AND EVEN IF WE COULD, THE ENTIRE MILITARY KNOWS I'M A WITCH. IT'S EITHER WORK FOR THEM OR GO TO THEIR "SAFE ZONE."
BUT YOU'RE A HUMAN! YOU JUST KNOW MAGIC, THAT'S ALL!
AND WHOEVER UNLEASHED THE DRAGON THAT WRECKED THE CITY WAS PROBABLY THE SAME THING.
ANYWAY, I WANT TO GO TO THE SAFE ZONE. THEY'RE ROUNDING UP WICCANS BY THE DOZEN. EVEN ONES WHO CAN BARELY CONJURE.
MY FRIENDS. MY STUDENTS. PEOPLE I TAUGHT, PEOPLE I BROUGHT INTO IT...
THEY'LL BE SURROUNDED BY DEMONS AND MONSTERS. IT'S LIKE PUTTING SHEEP IN A LION'S DEN.
I HAVE TO BE THERE. TO LOOK OUT FOR THEM...FIGHT FOR THEM.
MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS THEY'RE PROTECTED.


WELL, WITH MY NEW IDENTITY, I CAN TRAVEL FREELY. NOW ALL I NEED DO IS CONVINCINGLY ACT MY PHYSICAL AGE, SOMEWHERE I'M NOT KNOWN.
YEAH... HAVE YOU EVER ACTUALLY *BEEN* TO A REAL SCHOOL? I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT WATCHER ACADEMY OR, LIKE, ONE OF THOSE BRITISH PLACES WITH BLAZERS AND SHORTS.
MAY I REMIND YOU, I WAS A FACULTY MEMBER IN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM! HOW DIFFERENT CAN IT BE AS A STUDENT?
HANG IT ALL, THEN--PERHAPS I *SHOULD* GO TO THE SAFE ZONE.
NO WAY. WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS. MAGICWISE, YOU'LL BE A SMALL FISH IN A BIG POND...OF DEMON PIRANHAS. AND YOU'RE APPETIZER-SIZED.
IN EIGHTH GRADE, THEY JUST DESTROY YOUR *WILL* TO LIVE.
SPIKE! WHAT DID DOWLING SAY? IS THERE ANYTHING HE CAN--?
'FRAID NOT. MATTER OF FACT, HE'S BEEN GETTING THE COLD SHOULDER FOR BEING SO CHUMMY WITH US BEFORE THE GREAT DISASTER.
AND JUST TO PUT THE BOOT IN, THEY REVOKED MY S.F.P.D. CREDENTIALS.
GAVE ME A TICKET TO THE CAMP, THOUGH, SO IT'S NOT AS IF I LEFT EMPTY HANDED.
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
OFFICIAL ORDER


ANDREW WAS RIGHT...YOU SHOULD FLEE THE COUNTRY. MY FORGER'S QUITE GOOD. COUNTLESS VAMPIRES ALREADY HAVE. LOOK AT HARMONY--
SHE WENT ON TOUR BEFORE THINGS GOT BAD AND JUST STAYED. NOW SHE'S AN EXPAT, LIKE JOSEPHINE BLOODY BAKER.
IT'S MUCH HARDER NOW FOR OUR LOT TO GET OUT. THE SLAYERS HAVE DUSTED MORE'N A FEW TRYING. AND I CAN'T TRAVEL DURING THE DAY.
WILL YOU STOP WITH THE EXCUSES? I KNOW YOU'D AT LEAST *TRY* IF IT DIDN'T MEAN LEAVING ME. WE COULD GO TOGETHER!
SURE, THAT'LL HELP. NOT LIKE ANYONE IN THE MILITARY, POLICE, OR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAS ANY IDEA WHO YOU ARE...OH, WAIT.
THEY WANT TO STOP US, THEY CAN TRY.
NOW WE'RE TALKIN'. BUFFY AND CLYDE.
JUST LET THE COPPERS TRY TO TAKE US ALIVE--
BAM BAM BAM
FEDERAL AGENT. OPEN UP.
I'M HERE FOR WILLOW ROSENBERG AND WILLIAM THE BLOODY.


WHAT IS THIS? THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO REPORT UNTIL FRIDAY.
CHANGE OF PLANS. WE'RE EVALUATING FLIGHT RISKS. GUESS WHO MADE THE LIST.
THAT MEANS YOU GO UNDER GUARD. AS IN ME. YOU'VE GOT FIFTEEN MINUTES TO PACK. MOST OF WHAT YOU NEED WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU.
THAT'S INSANE! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET READY IN--
WHAT'S THIS "WE"? SLAYERS ARE EXEMPT, WHETHER YOU'RE MAKING YOURSELF USEFUL OR NOT. YOU CAN STAY.
GO BACK TO WAITRESSING. SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY CAREER THAT STICKS FOR YOU.
I'LL SAY THIS ONCE.
GET OUT.
OR GET *THROWN* OUT.

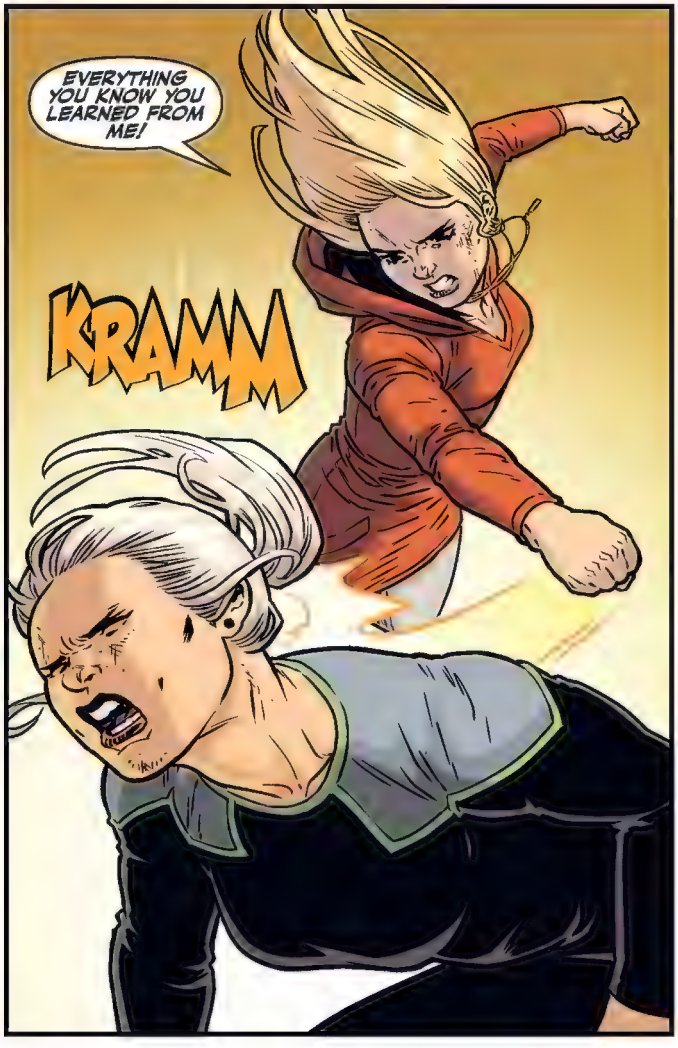

WHAT THE HELL, SUMMERS?
WE JUST SAW IT IN GRAPHIC DETAIL: HUMANITY'S UNDER ATTACK BY SUPERNATURAL MONSTERS.
BUT THAT'S NOTHING NEW, IS IT?
IT'S WHY SLAYERS WERE CREATED: TO PROTECT PEOPLE. TO BE THE LAST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST THE THINGS OUT THERE THAT WANT TO DRINK THEIR BLOOD. EAT THEIR SOULS.
THEY NEED SLAYERS. WE'RE ALL THEY'VE GOT.
AND YOU USED TO BE THE BEST OF US.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
I LIVED LONGER THAN SLAYERS ARE SUPPOSED TO. LEARNED THE WORLD ISN'T BLACK AND WHITE.
THAT YOU CAN'T PAINT EVERYONE WITH THE SAME BRUSH. HUMAN OR OTHERWISE.
LET ME TRANSLATE. YOU GOT WEAK. DEVELOPED A VAMPIRE FETISH.
"ONCE YOU GO DRAC, YOU NEVER GO BACK," AM I RIGHT?

BKRASHH
SAY IT AGAIN.
CALL ME WEAK AGAIN!
WEAK.
UNGH!

SOFT.
HFF!
TRAITOR!
WHDD
AMATEUR.

KRTCH

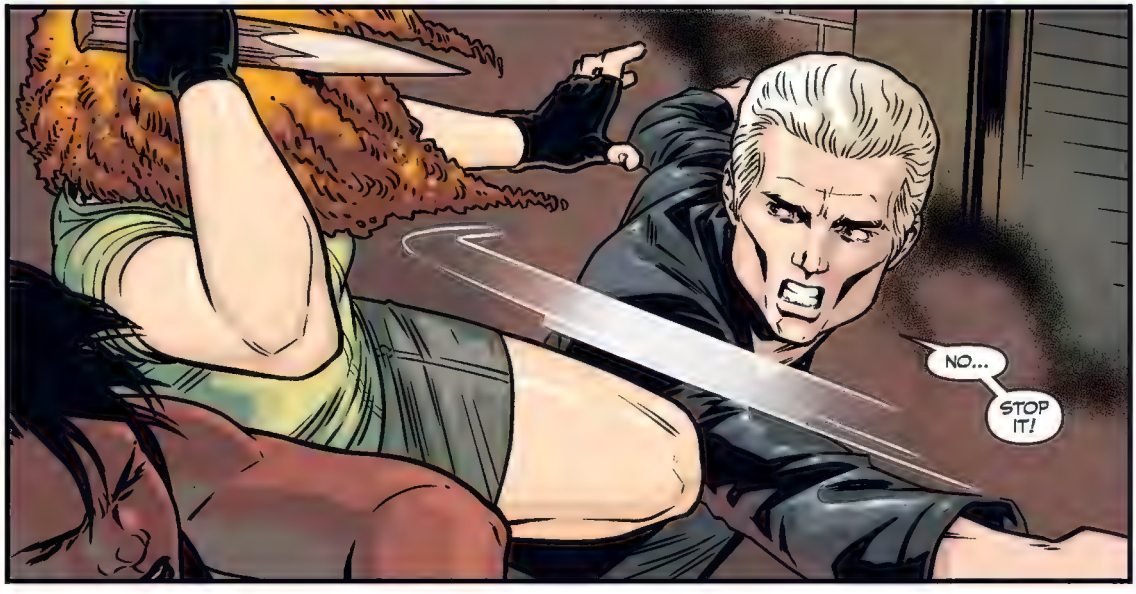
BULLY.


EVERYTHING YOU KNOW YOU LEARNED FROM ME!
KRAMM

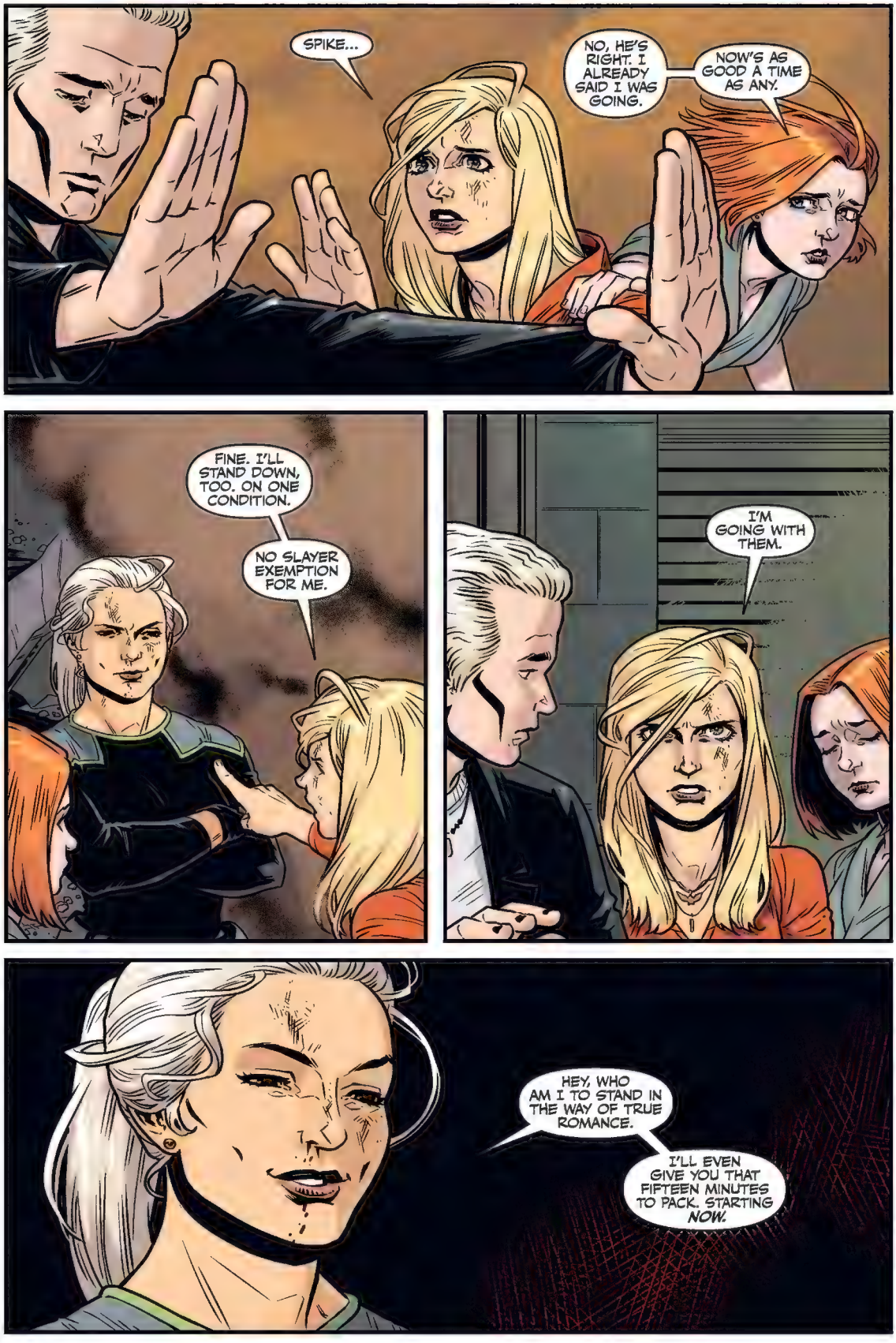
YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO. I TELL YOU.
AND I'M TELLING YOU TO LEAVE, BEFORE--
SLAYER! SHE'S GOT--
NOW.
WHABOOOOM

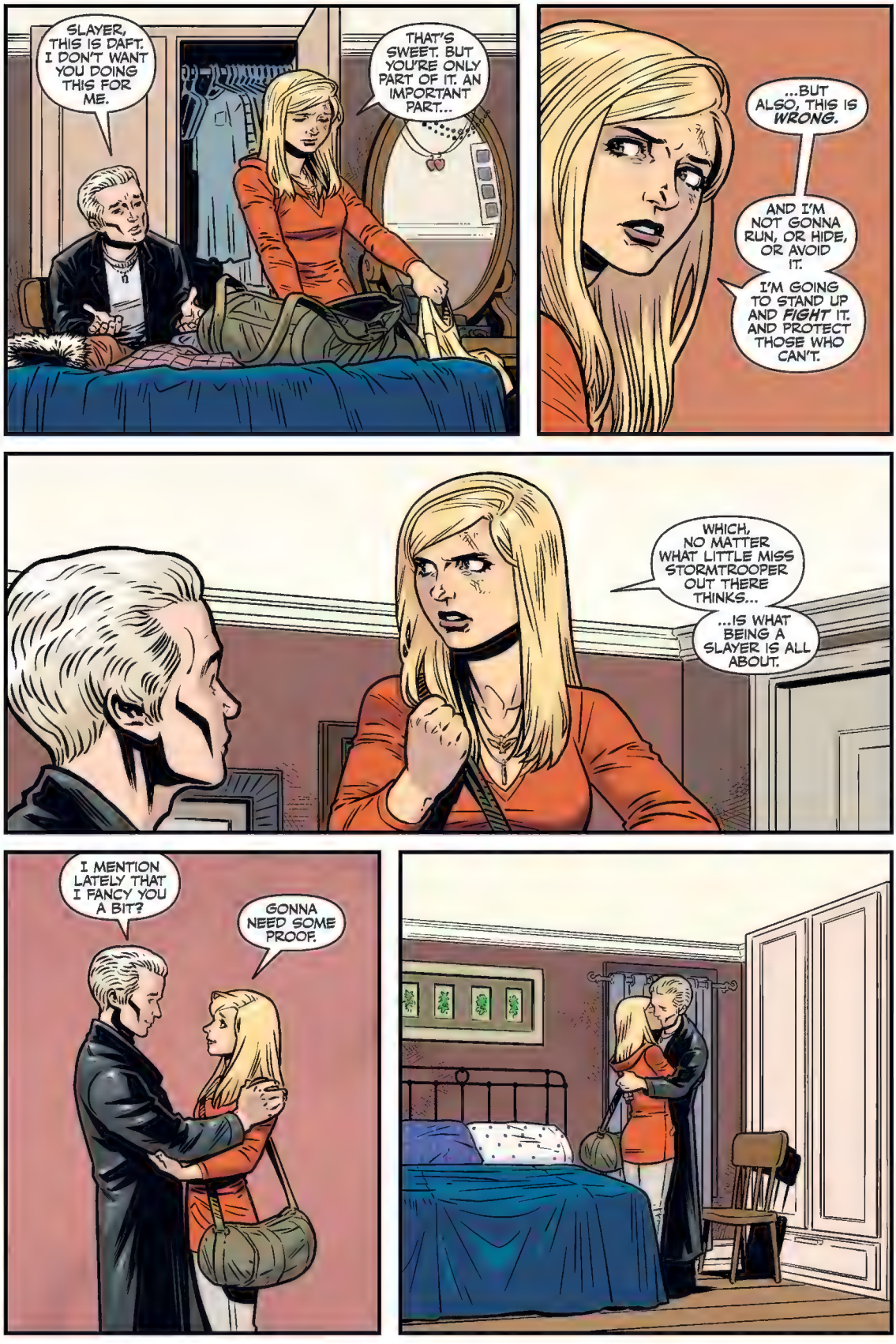
I THINK BLONDIE WAS GONNA SAY "BACKUP."
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE.

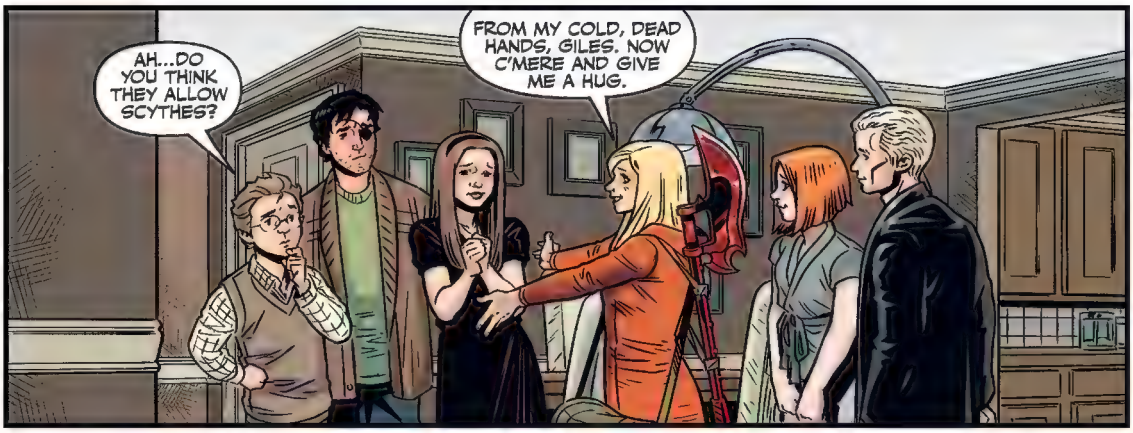
COMMANDER! IS LETHAL FORCE AUTHORIZED?
MORE LIKE "ENCOURAGED."
THANKS FOR CLEARING THAT UP.


NO...
STOP IT!

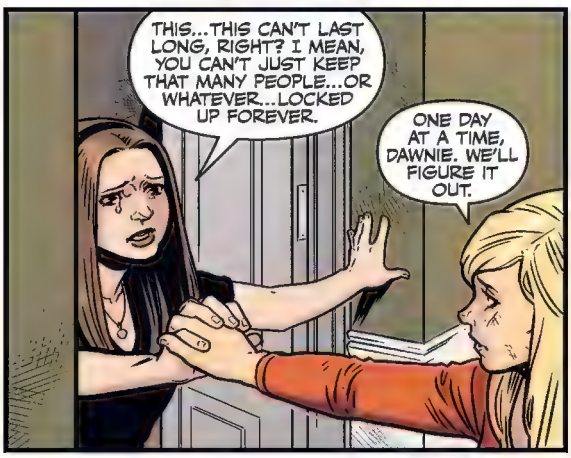
OH MY GOD, WHAT IS THIS?
RUN! IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
I... SAID...
...STOP!
SKREEEENCH
THIS ISN'T NECESSARY. I DON'T WANT ANYONE HURT ON MY ACCOUNT.
I SURRENDER. I'LL GO.

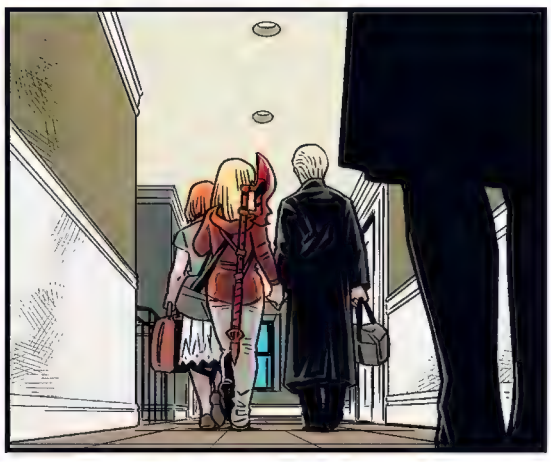

SPIKE...
NO, HE'S RIGHT. I ALREADY SAID I WAS GOING.
NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY.
FINE. I'LL STAND DOWN, TOO. ON ONE CONDITION.
NO SLAYER EXEMPTION FOR ME.
I'M GOING WITH THEM.
HEY, WHO AM I TO STAND IN THE WAY OF TRUE ROMANCE.
I'LL EVEN GIVE YOU THAT FIFTEEN MINUTES TO PACK. STARTING *NOW.*

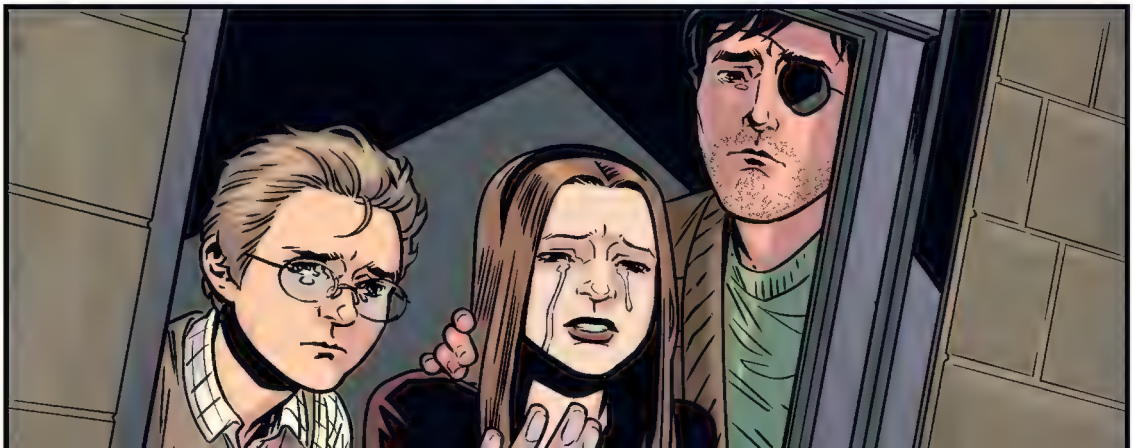

SLAYER, THIS IS DAFT. I DON'T WANT YOU DOING THIS FOR ME.
THAT'S SWEET. BUT YOU'RE ONLY PART OF IT. AN IMPORTANT PART...
...BUT ALSO, THIS IS WRONG.
AND I'M NOT GONNA RUN, OR HIDE, OR AVOID IT.
I'M GOING TO STAND UP AND FIGHT IT. AND PROTECT THOSE WHO CAN'T.
WHICH, NO MATTER WHAT LITTLE MISS STORMTROOPER OUT THERE THINKS...
...IS WHAT BEING A SLAYER IS ALL ABOUT.
I MENTION LATELY THAT I FANCY YOU A BIT?
GONNA NEED SOME PROOF.

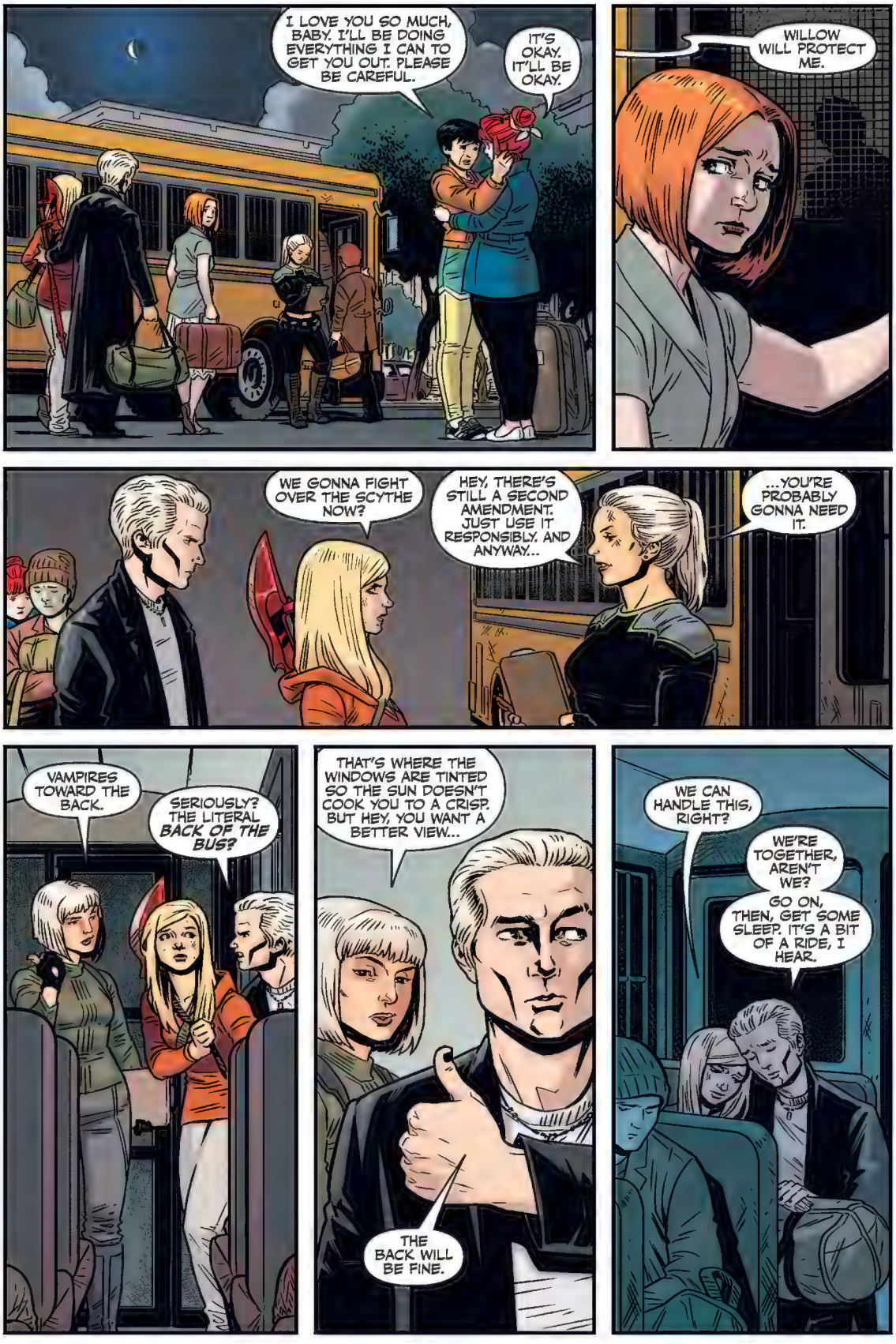

AH...DO YOU THINK THEY ALLOW SCYTHES?
FROM MY COLD, DEAD HANDS, GILES. NOW C'MERE AND GIVE ME A HUG.

FEED THE CATS, MATE?
I'M ALREADY THE ONE WHO FEEDS THEM. YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.
CALL AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
I WILL. FILL DAD IN ON EVERYTHING, OKAY?

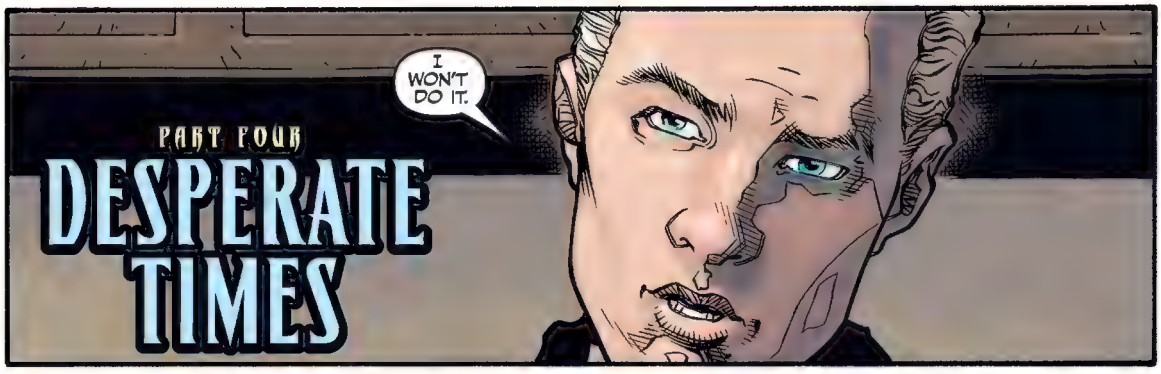

THIS...THIS CAN'T LAST LONG, RIGHT? I MEAN, YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP THAT MANY PEOPLE...OR WHATEVER...LOCKED UP FOREVER.
ONE DAY AT A TIME, DAWNIE. WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.





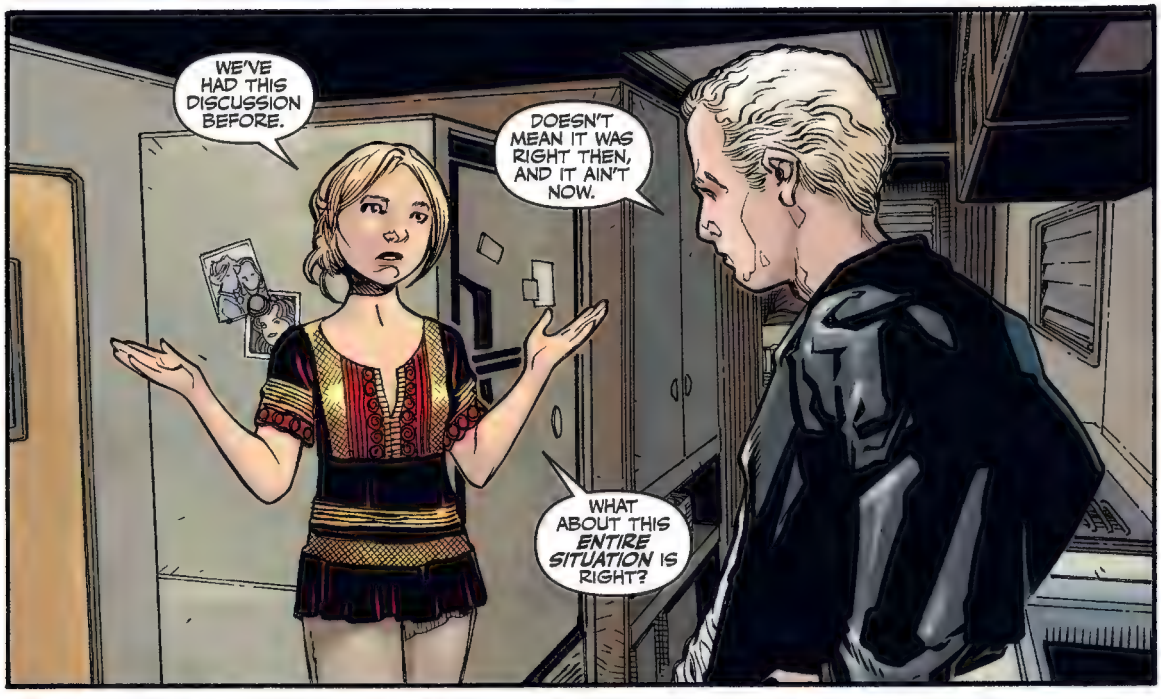

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, BABY. I'LL BE DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO GET YOU OUT. PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
IT'S OKAY. IT'LL BE OKAY.
WILLOW WILL PROTECT ME.
WE GONNA FIGHT OVER THE SCYTHE NOW?
HEY, THERE'S STILL A SECOND AMENDMENT. JUST USE IT RESPONSIBLY. AND ANYWAY...
...YOU'RE PROBABLY GONNA NEED IT.
VAMPIRES TOWARD THE BACK.
SERIOUSLY? THE LITERAL BACK OF THE BUS?
THAT'S WHERE THE WINDOWS ARE TINTED SO THE SUN DOESN'T COOK YOU TO A CRISP. BUT HEY, YOU WANT A BETTER VIEW...
THE BACK WILL BE FINE.
WE CAN HANDLE THIS, RIGHT?
WE'RE TOGETHER, AREN'T WE?
GO ON, THEN, GET SOME SLEEP. IT'S A BIT OF A RIDE, I HEAR.

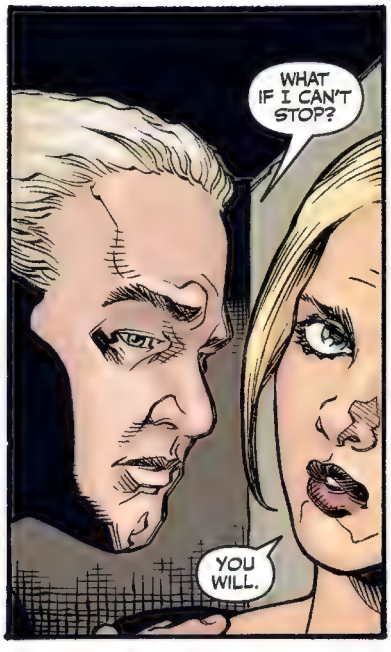
HOURS LATER.
SLAYER.
WE'RE HERE.

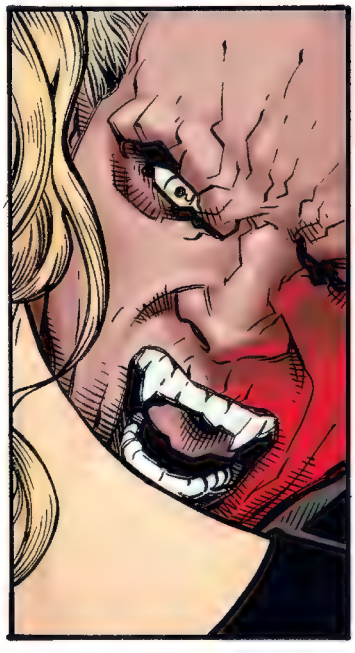


PART FOUR

DESPERATE TIMES







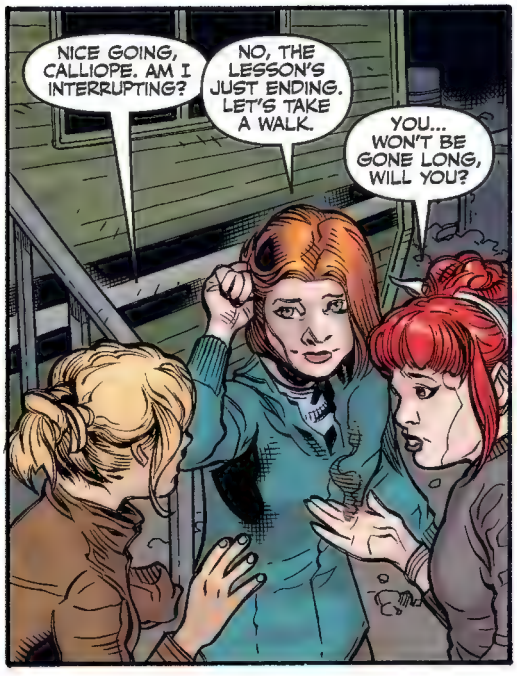
NNHH...
TH...
THAT'S...
...ENOUGH.
THAT'S THE LAST TIME--
DON'T. OKAY?
JUST DON'T.
SARAH WAY

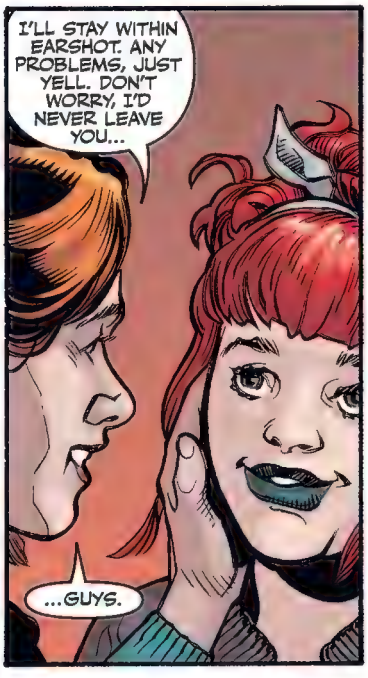
I JUST DON'T THINK IT WAS NECESSARY. I MEAN, THEY'RE ABOUT TO GIVE OUT THE BLOOD RATIONS, AREN'T THEY?
YEAH, AND MOST VAMPIRES ARE SO HUNGRY THEY GULP HALF OF IT DOWN RIGHT AWAY, AND THEY'RE STARVING BY MIDWEEK. YOU CAN CONTROL YOURSELF.
IT'S BEST THIS WAY.
"BEST" IN THIS PLACE IS A BLOODY LOW STANDARD.

LINE'S NOT SO BAD TONIGHT--
I CAN'T! IT'S NOT ENOUGH! IT'S NEVER ENOUGH!
BLOODY
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT!
HERE HE GOES AGAIN.
KONK
NICE ONE, TREVOR. NOW YOU'VE GOT TO HEAL THOSE BROKEN BONES AND YOU'LL BE EVEN HUNGRIER. YOU GONNA TEST THE FORCE FIELD EVERY WEEK?
THE SLAYER. TOGETHER WE CAN TAKE HER. WE CAN FEED!
RIGHT. I WAS GONNA GET YOUR SPOT BACK, BUT IT'S THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU, MATE.
BETTER GET GOING BEFORE ANY OF THESE OTHER SODS GET HOMICIDAL IDEAS. LOVE TO WILLOW.
SEE YOU SOON.

HUMANS! IMPRISONING *US!*
IT'S A REVERSAL OF THE NATURAL ORDER! WE'VE GOT TO *RISE UP* AGAINST OUR OPPRESSORS!
THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE EFFECTIVELY WE CAN FIGHT FOR YOU. THERE'S NO NEUTRALITY IN THIS WAR. IF YOU'RE NOT WITH US...YOU'RE WITH *THEM.*

IT'S WORKING! WILLOW, IT'S *WORKING!*
SURE. NOTHING MAGIC CAN PASS THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD, BUT THEY COULDN'T NEUTRALIZE MAGIC *INSIDE,* OR MOST INMATES WOULD DIE. AND THAT'S TOO FAR EVEN FOR THEM.
KEEP PRACTICING. ANYONE MESSES WITH YOU, FIRE'S THE BEST DETERRENT. MOST SPECIES ARE INSTINCTIVELY AFRAID OF IT.

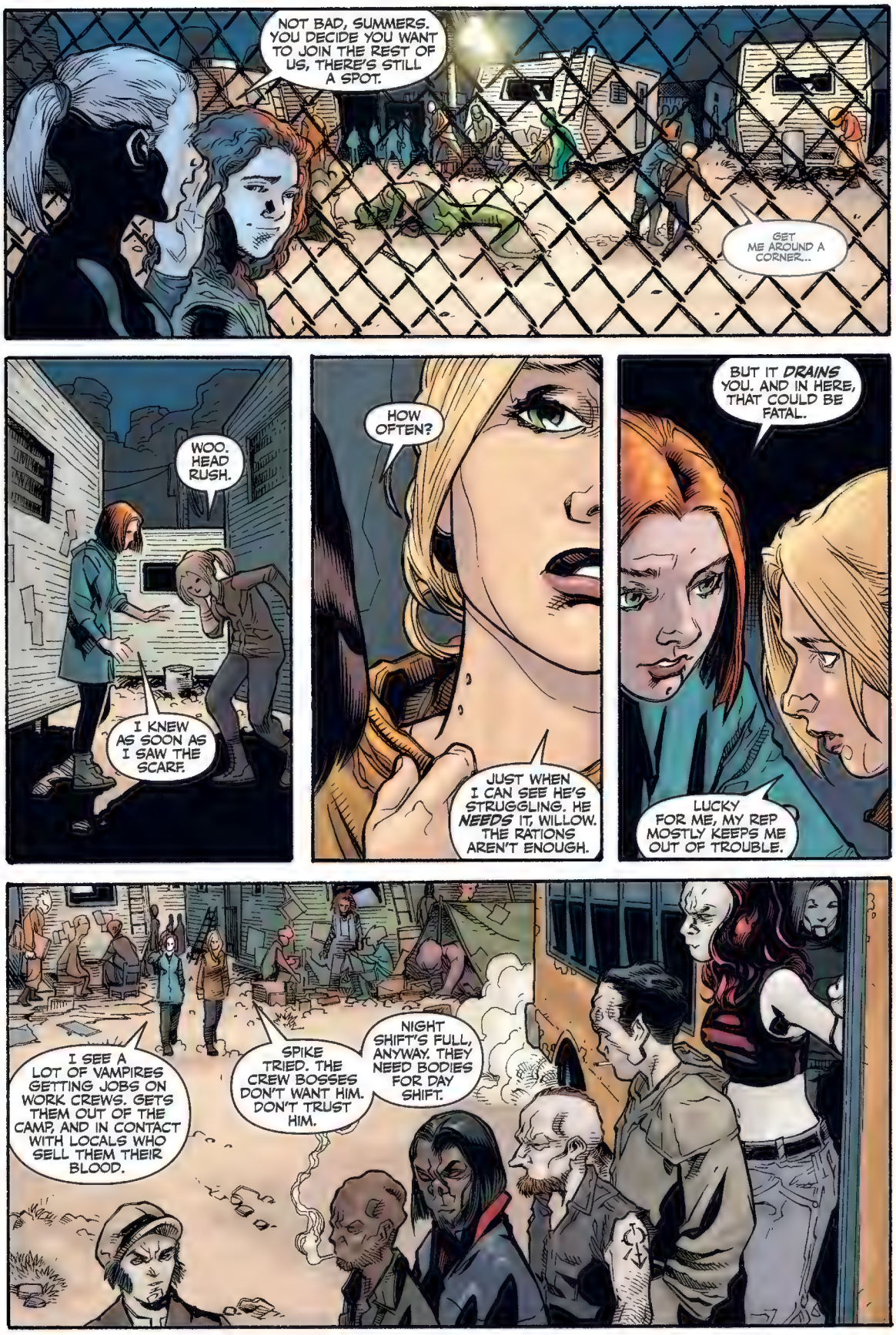

NICE GOING, CALLIOPE. AM I INTERRUPTING?
NO, THE LESSON'S JUST ENDING. LET'S TAKE A WALK.
YOU... WON'T BE GONE LONG, WILL YOU?


I'LL STAY WITHIN EARSHOT. ANY PROBLEMS, JUST YELL. DON'T WORRY, I'D NEVER LEAVE YOU...
...GUYS.

THAT WAS FAST. I GUESS LIVING TOGETHER, THE DANGER...
STOP. SHE HAS A GIRLFRIEND ON THE OUTSIDE. AND THERE'S FIVE OF US TO A TRAILER... FOR SAFETY.
WICCANS ARE SOME OF THE ONLY HUMANS IN THIS PLACE. WE'RE LIKE GINGERBREAD MEN AT WEIGHT-LOSS CAMP.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN COUNT ON THE SLAYERS IF ANYTHING HAPPENS. GUARDS DON'T COME THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD FOR ANYTHING SHORT OF A RIOT.
CONSIDER IT YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE, PUNK. A REVOLUTIONARY ARMY NEEDS FOOD. DONATE, OR BE IT!
YEAH...AND THE TRUSTEES AREN'T GONNA STICK THEIR NECKS OUT. THEY'RE JUST IN IT FOR THE EXTRA RATIONS.
GUESS IT'S TIME TO REMIND EVERYONE WHO'S KING OF THE YARD.

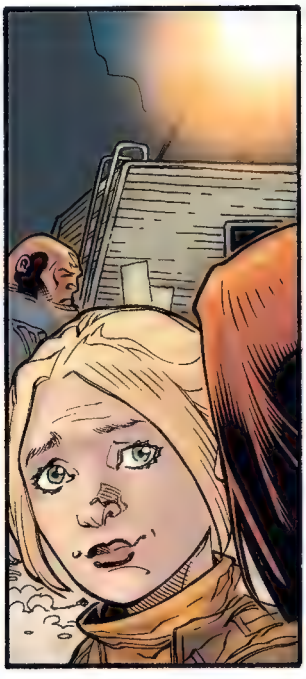
THE SLAYER!
SO? SHE'S THE ENEMY. PROBABLY A SPY. LET'S SHOW HER WHAT WE DO TO TRAITORS.
WOW. REALLY? IT *HAS* BEEN TOO LONG--
--SINCE I--
--DID *THIS*.
UFF!
RIGHT? DON'T MESS WITH THE--
BUFFY!

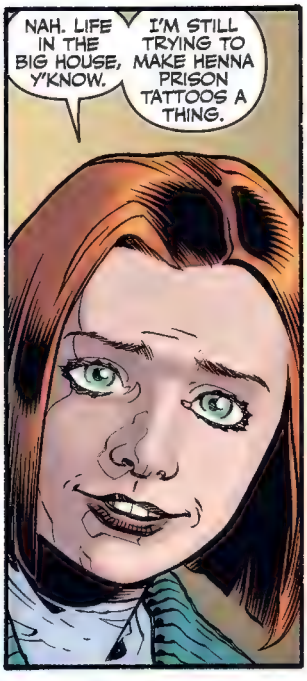
YOU'RE LOSING YOUR TOUCH, SLAYER. GONNA TAKE MORE THAN WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO LAY ME OUT.
TRY SOME OF THIS--
NO.
I STARTED THIS...
...I'LL FINISH IT.
WHABAM


NOT BAD, SUMMERS. YOU DECIDE YOU WANT TO JOIN THE REST OF US, THERE'S STILL A SPOT.
GET ME AROUND A CORNER...
WOO. HEAD RUSH.
I KNEW AS SOON AS I SAW THE SCARF.
HOW OFTEN?
JUST WHEN I CAN SEE HE'S STRUGGLING. HE *NEEDS* IT, WILLOW. THE RATIONS AREN'T ENOUGH.
BUT IT *DRAINS* YOU. AND IN HERE, THAT COULD BE FATAL.
LUCKY FOR ME, MY REP MOSTLY KEEPS ME OUT OF TROUBLE.
I SEE A LOT OF VAMPIRES GETTING JOBS ON WORK CREWS. GETS THEM OUT OF THE CAMP, AND IN CONTACT WITH LOCALS WHO SELL THEM THEIR BLOOD.
SPIKE TRIED. THE CREW BOSSES DON'T WANT HIM. DON'T TRUST HIM.
NIGHT SHIFT'S FULL, ANYWAY. THEY NEED BODIES FOR DAY SHIFT.

WELL...IT CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER, RIGHT?
NO.
BUT IT CAN ALWAYS GET WORSE.

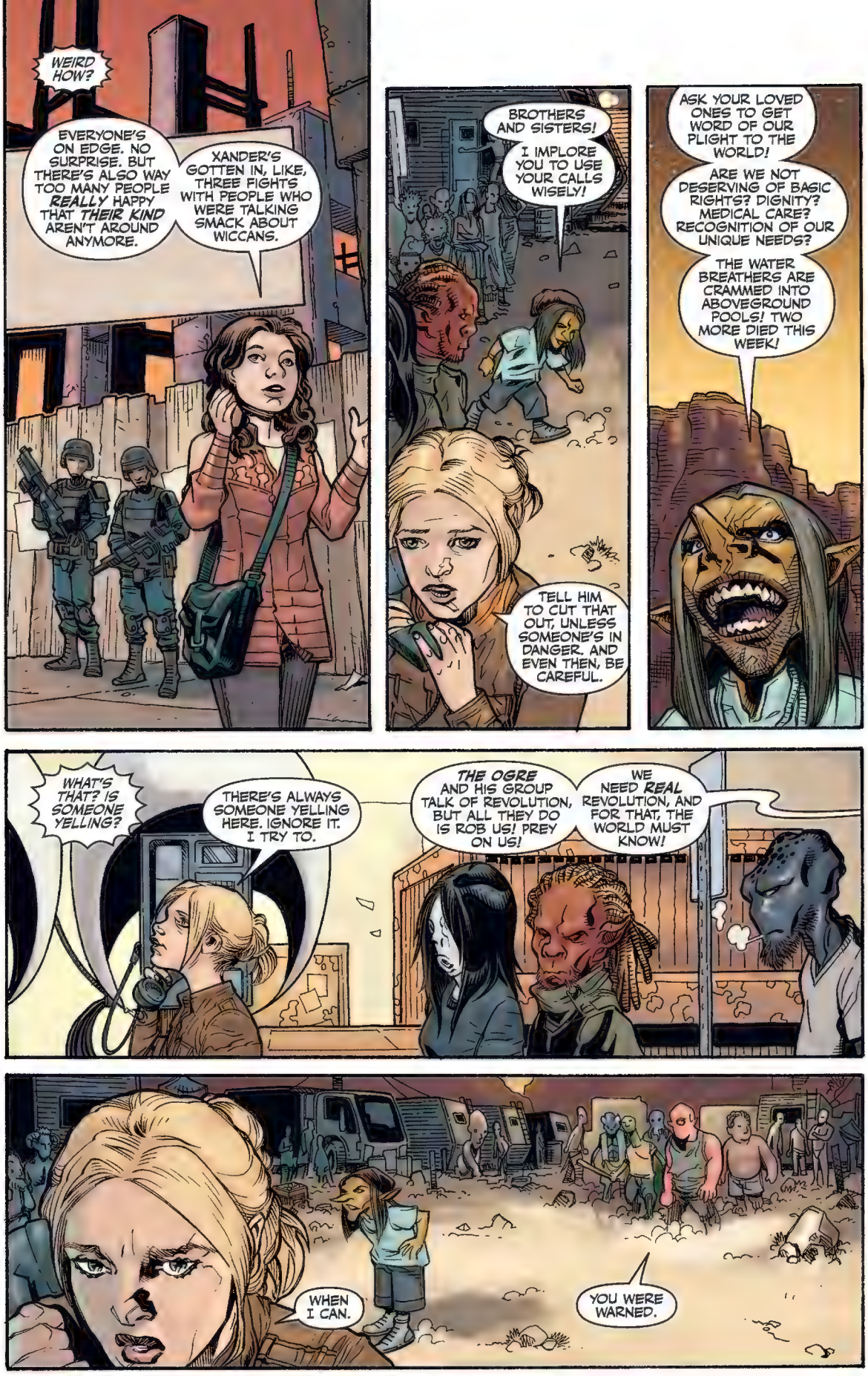
ALL RIGHT, LADIES? GOT MY RATIONS SORTED. I MISS ANYTHING?



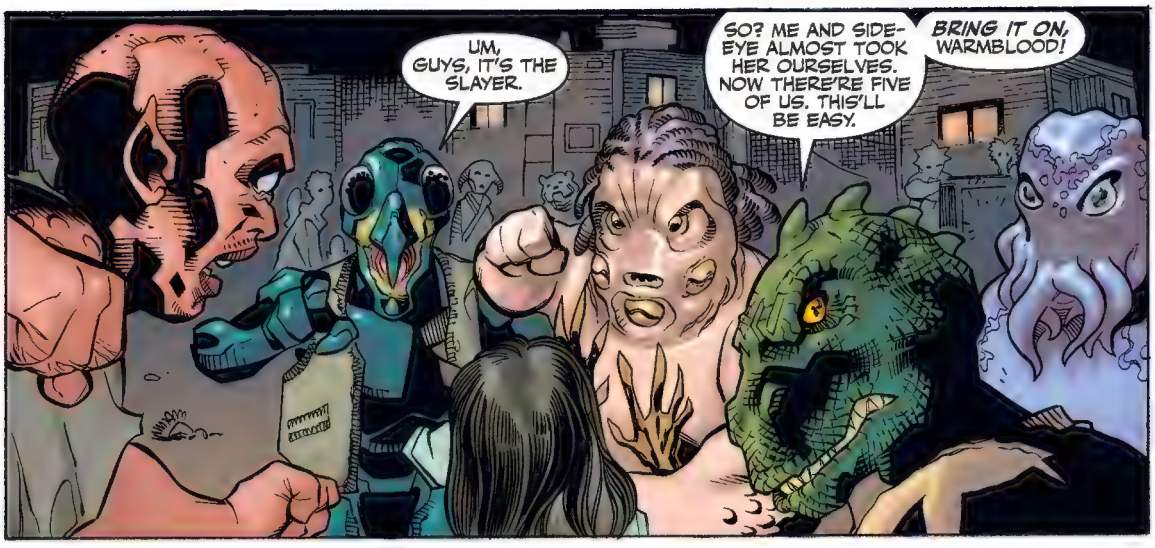

NAH. LIFE IN THE BIG HOUSE, Y'KNOW.
I'M STILL TRYING TO MAKE HENNA PRISON TATTOOS A THING.

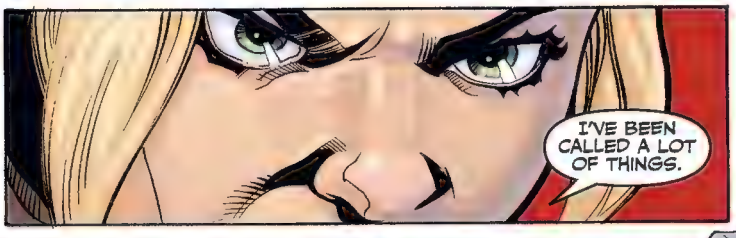
C'MON, LET'S GET THAT BLOOD IN THE FRIDGE.
SEE YOU LATER, WIL.
CHEERS TO THE GIRLS.

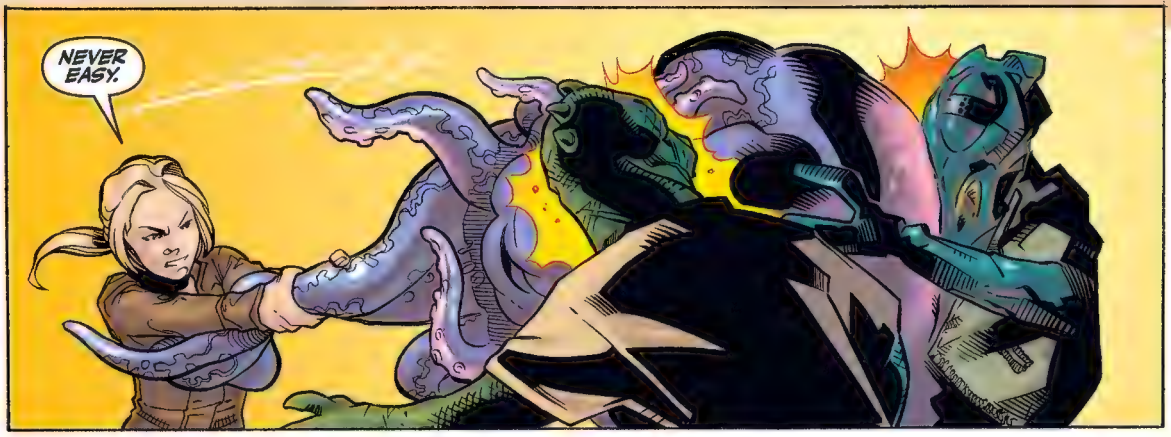
SIX DAYS LATER.
I'M GONNA GO CALL DAWN. YOU DOING OKAY?
ACES.
MADE THE RATION LAST NICELY THIS WEEK.
SWEET. SEE YOU SOON!
BY NOT EATING FOR THREE BLOODY DAYS...
OUR LAWYER JUST TALKED TO THE FEDS. THEY KEEP SAYING THE CAMP'S TEMPORARY, AND YOU'LL BE OUT WITHIN THE YEAR.
GREAT. SO, ONE MONTH, NINE...NO BIG DIFFERENCE THERE.
HOW'S LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE?
BUFFY
WEIRD. GETTING BACK TO NORMAL, IN SOME WAYS...


WEIRD HOW?
EVERYONE'S ON EDGE. NO SURPRISE. BUT THERE'S ALSO WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE *REALLY* HAPPY THAT *THEIR KIND* AREN'T AROUND ANYMORE.
XANDER'S GOTTEN IN, LIKE, THREE FIGHTS WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE TALKING SMACK ABOUT WICCANS.
BROTHERS AND SISTERS!
I IMPLORE YOU TO USE YOUR CALLS WISELY!
TELL HIM TO CUT THAT OUT, UNLESS SOMEONE'S IN DANGER. AND EVEN THEN, BE CAREFUL.
ASK YOUR LOVED ONES TO GET WORD OF OUR PLIGHT TO THE WORLD!
ARE WE NOT DESERVING OF BASIC RIGHTS? DIGNITY? MEDICAL CARE? RECOGNITION OF OUR UNIQUE NEEDS?
THE WATER BREATHERS ARE CRAMMED INTO ABOVEGROUND POOLS! TWO MORE DIED THIS WEEK!
WHAT'S THAT? IS SOMEONE YELLING?
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE YELLING HERE. IGNORE IT. I TRY TO.
THE OGRE AND HIS GROUP TALK OF REVOLUTION, BUT ALL THEY DO IS ROB US! PREY ON US!
WE NEED *REAL* REVOLUTION, AND FOR THAT, THE WORLD MUST KNOW!
WHEN I CAN.
YOU WERE WARNED.

YOU ONLY GET WARNED ONCE.
LEECHES! PARASITES! YOU'RE THE TRAITORS!
SHUT HIM UP.
AAGGH!
I GOTTA GO. LONG LINE.
BUFFY, WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP--
GET GOOD GRADES. TALK SOON, DAWNIE. HUG XANDER FOR ME.
CLAK!
MAKE ME CUT SHORT MY PHONE CALL?
SOMEONE'S GONNA GET HURT.


UM, GUYS, IT'S THE SLAYER.
SO? ME AND SIDE-EYE ALMOST TOOK HER OURSELVES. NOW THERE'RE FIVE OF US. THIS'LL BE EASY.
BRING IT ON, WARMBLOOD!


I'VE BEEN CALLED A LOT OF THINGS.

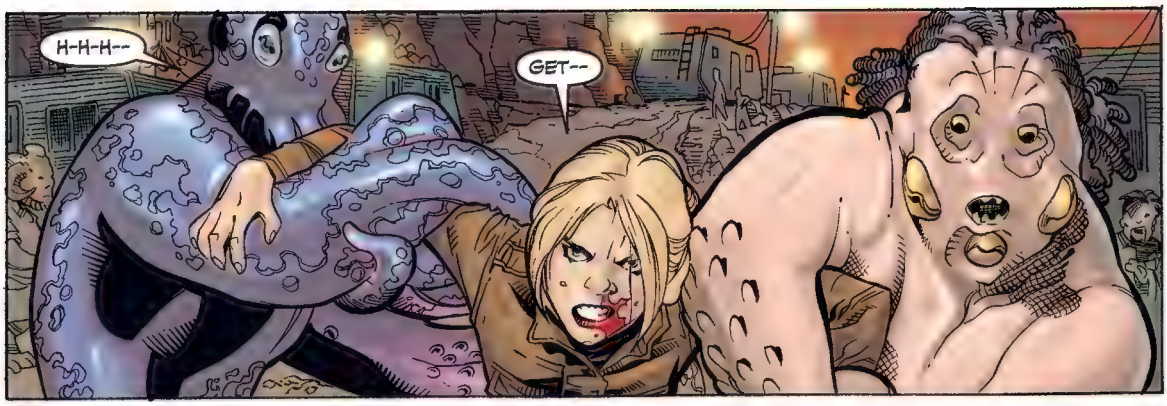

NEVER EASY.

SLAYER FIGHT!
SLAYER FIGHT!
OI! WHAT'S ALL THIS?
YOUR OLD LADY'S FIGHTING FIVE OF THE OGRE'S CREW!
BE A TOUGH ONE, BUT MY MONEY'S STILL ON HER.
HEY! WHERE YOU GOING? THE SUN'S NOT ALL THE WAY DOWN YET!
HEY!

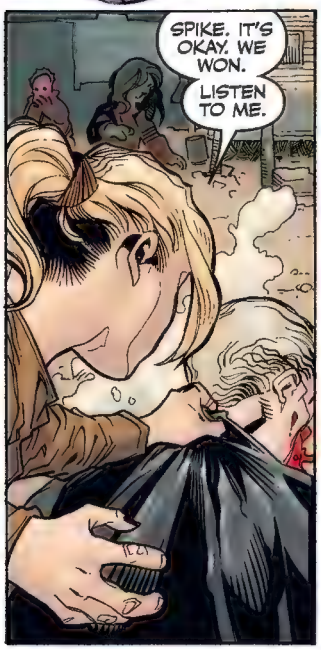
I HEARD SHE WAS STRONG. SHE'S NOT SO STRONG!
SHE'S STRONG ENOUGH.
HOLD HER STEADY. ZZZT.
KILL HER! HURRY!
STEADY! ZZZZT. UNLESS YOU WANT A FACE FULL OF VENOM.
STEADY!
HEY, WHAT THE HELL--?

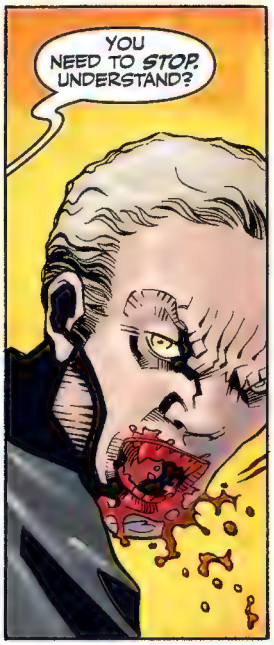
RRNCH
YOU WANT SOME, YOU HUMAN-LOVING--
SKANG
AAAZZZBTT
CHOK!

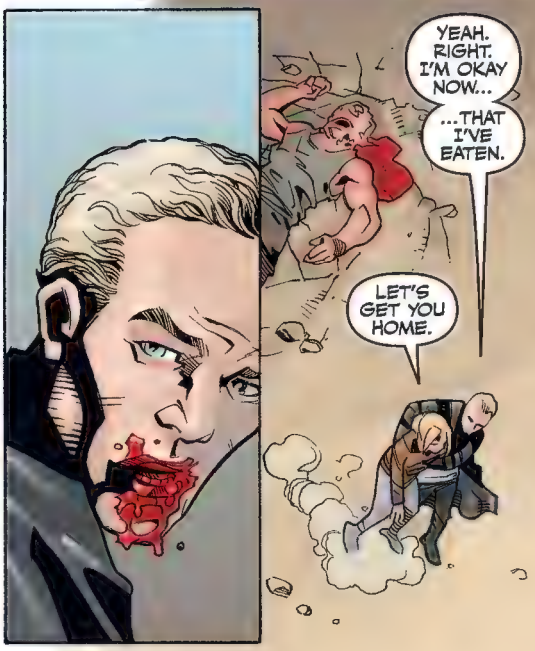
SON OF A--
VREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
THNK
SNRRRLL
AIIEEE!

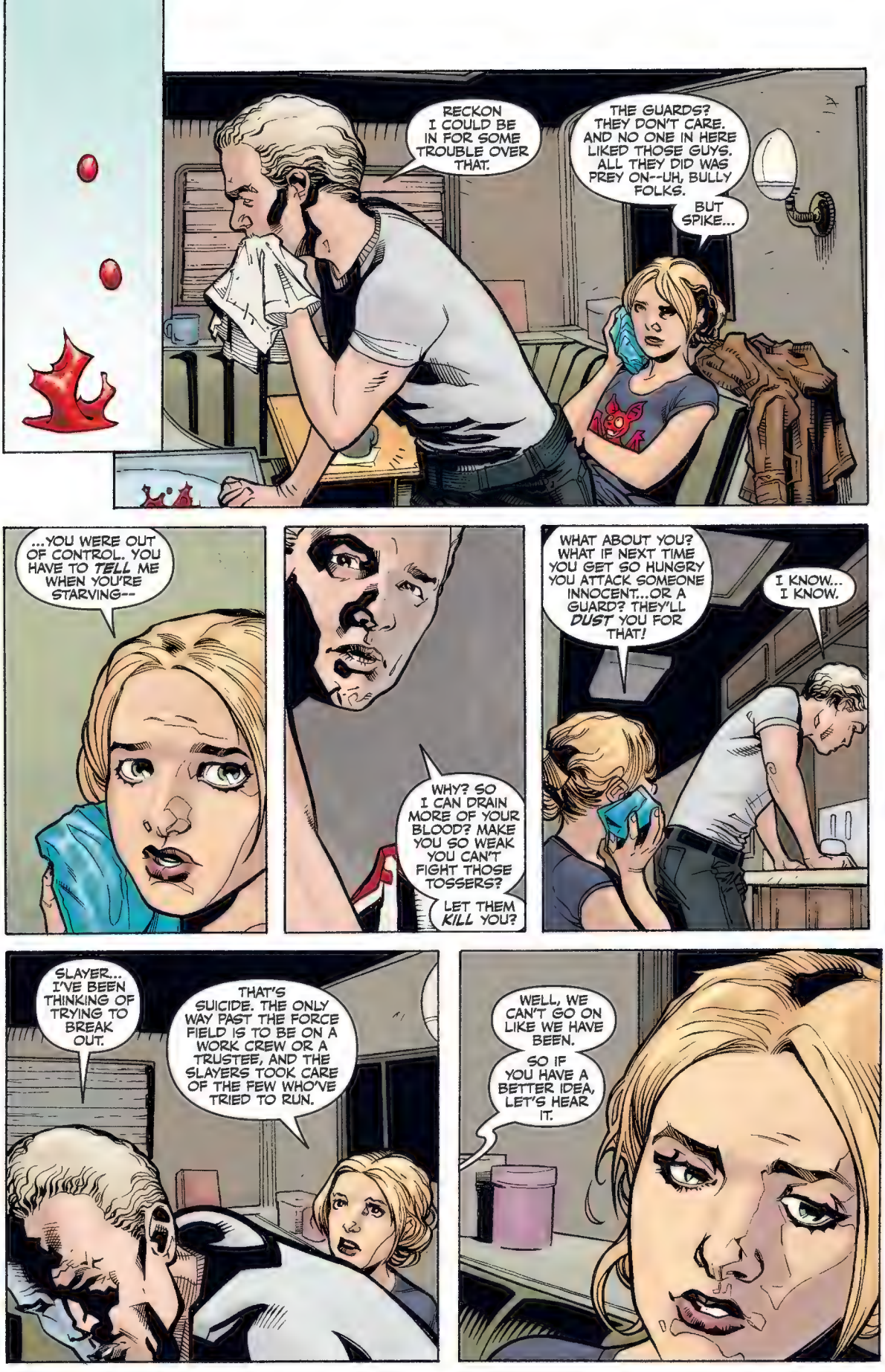

H-H-H--
GET--

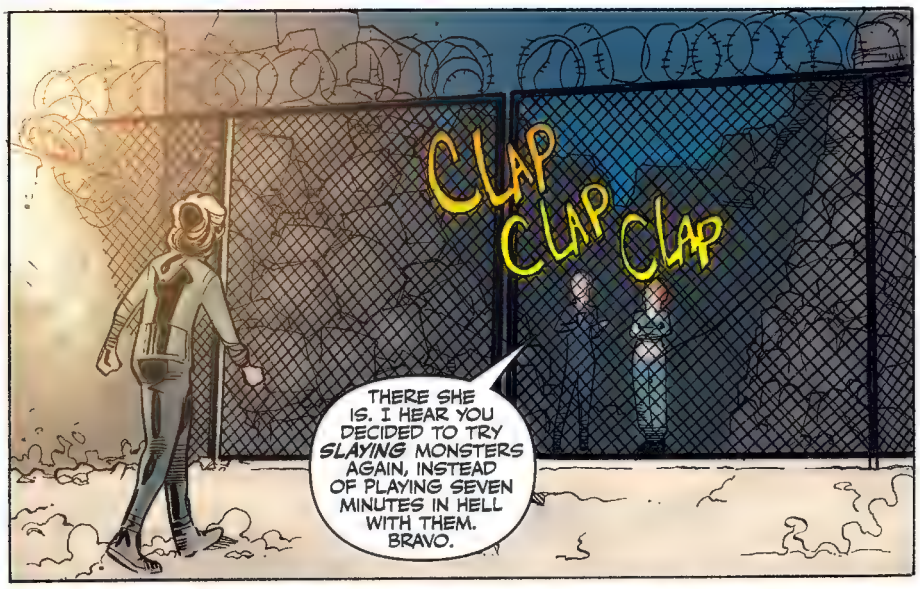
--OFF.

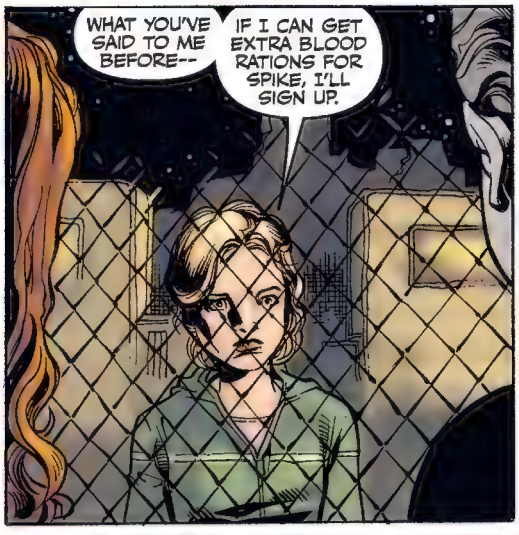

SPIKE. IT'S OKAY. WE WON.
LISTEN TO ME.

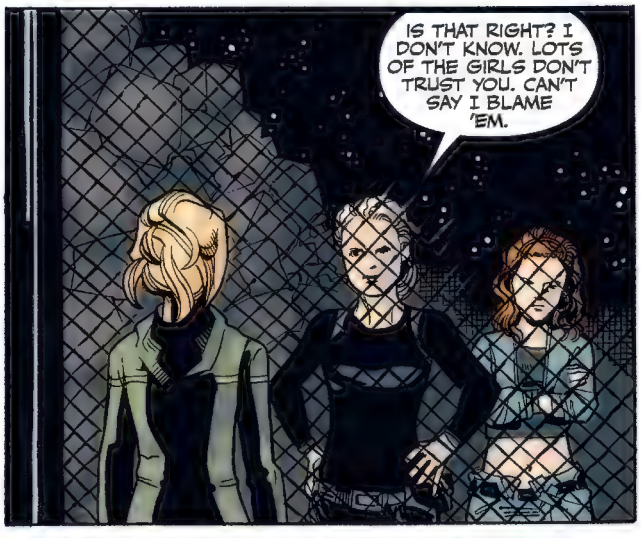

YOU NEED TO STOP. UNDERSTAND?

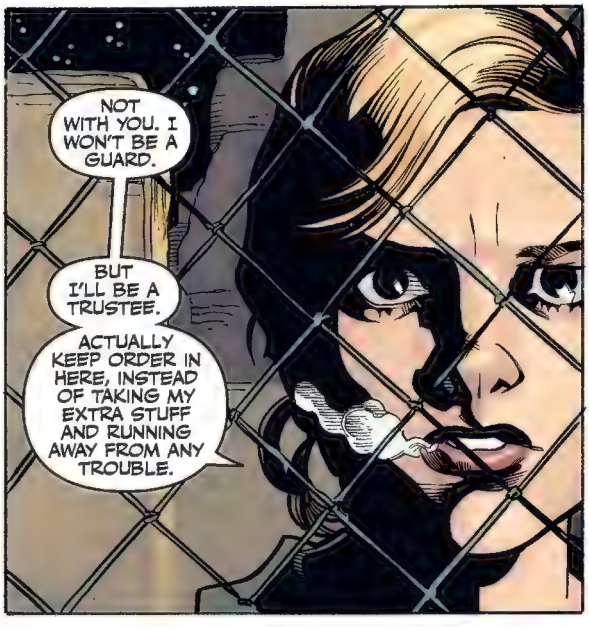

YEAH. RIGHT. I'M OKAY NOW...
...THAT I'VE EATEN.
LET'S GET YOU HOME.


RECKON I COULD BE IN FOR SOME TROUBLE OVER THAT.
THE GUARDS? THEY DON'T CARE. AND NO ONE IN HERE LIKED THOSE GUYS. ALL THEY DID WAS PREY ON--UH, BULLY FOLKS.
BUT SPIKE...
...YOU WERE OUT OF CONTROL. YOU HAVE TO *TELL* ME WHEN YOU'RE STARVING--
WHY? SO I CAN DRAIN MORE OF YOUR BLOOD? MAKE YOU SO WEAK YOU CAN'T FIGHT THOSE TOSSERS?
LET THEM *KILL* YOU?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT IF NEXT TIME YOU GET SO HUNGRY YOU ATTACK SOMEONE INNOCENT...OR A GUARD? THEY'LL *DUST* YOU FOR THAT!
I KNOW... I KNOW.
SLAYER... I'VE BEEN THINKING OF TRYING TO BREAK OUT.
THAT'S SUICIDE. THE ONLY WAY PAST THE FORCE FIELD IS TO BE ON A WORK CREW OR A TRUSTEE, AND THE SLAYERS TOOK CARE OF THE FEW WHO'VE TRIED TO RUN.
WELL, WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE WE HAVE BEEN.
SO IF YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA, LET'S HEAR IT.


CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THERE SHE IS. I HEAR YOU DECIDED TO TRY *SLAYING* MONSTERS AGAIN, INSTEAD OF PLAYING SEVEN MINUTES IN HELL WITH THEM. BRAVO.


WHAT YOU'VE SAID TO ME BEFORE--
IF I CAN GET EXTRA BLOOD RATIONS FOR SPIKE, I'LL SIGN UP.


IS THAT RIGHT? I DON'T KNOW. LOTS OF THE GIRLS DON'T TRUST YOU. CAN'T SAY I BLAME 'EM.


NOT WITH YOU. I WON'T BE A GUARD.
BUT I'LL BE A TRUSTEE.
ACTUALLY KEEP ORDER IN HERE, INSTEAD OF TAKING MY EXTRA STUFF AND RUNNING AWAY FROM ANY TROUBLE.

BUFFY?
HOW'D IT GO? WHAT'D THEY...
SARAH KAY
...AH.
SARAH KAY
WELL...
...MY APTITUDE TEST DID SAY I SHOULD BE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.
TRUSTEE
SUMMERS

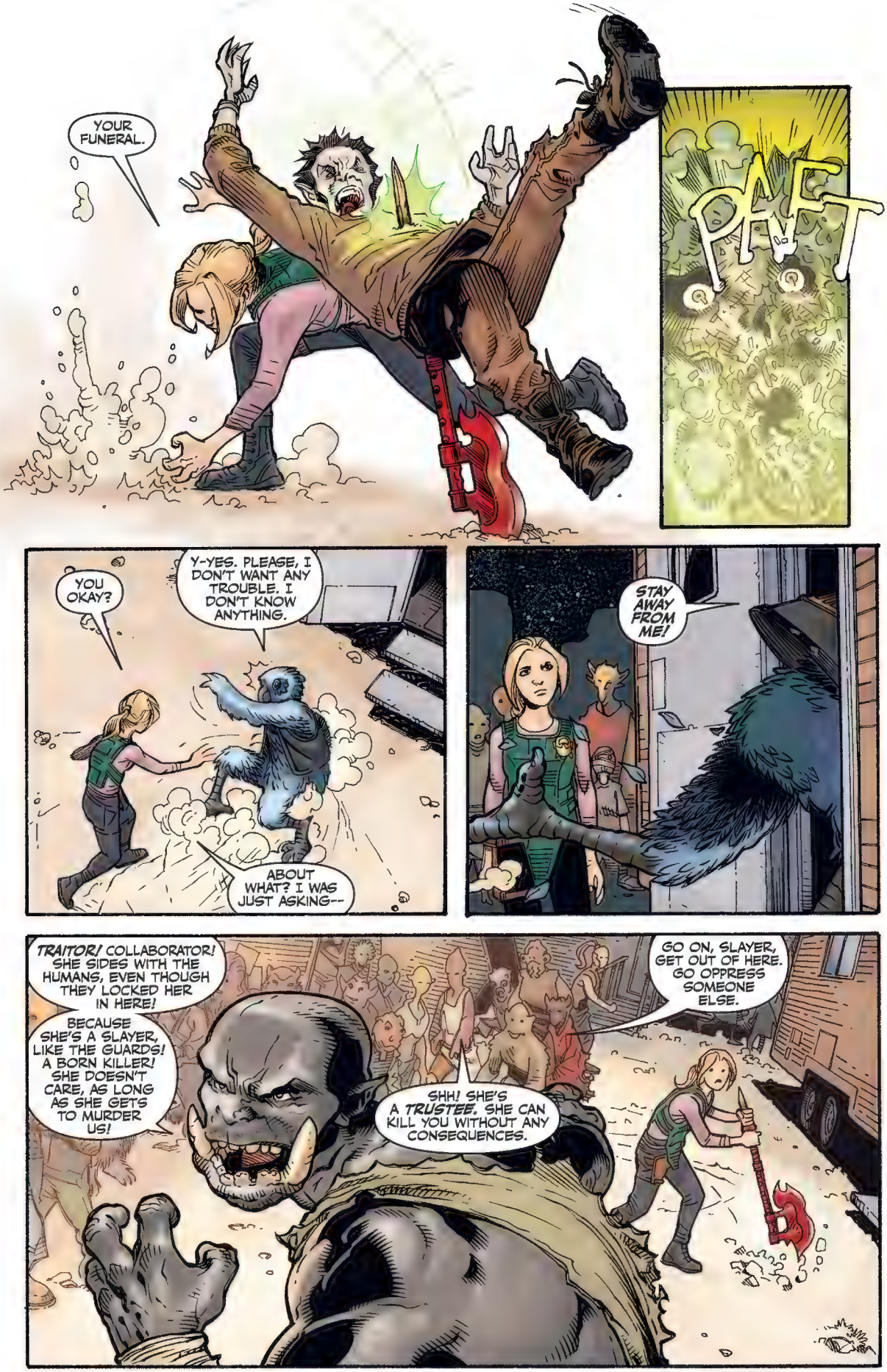
PART FIVE
DESPERATE MEASURES
BLOOD.
AAEEE!

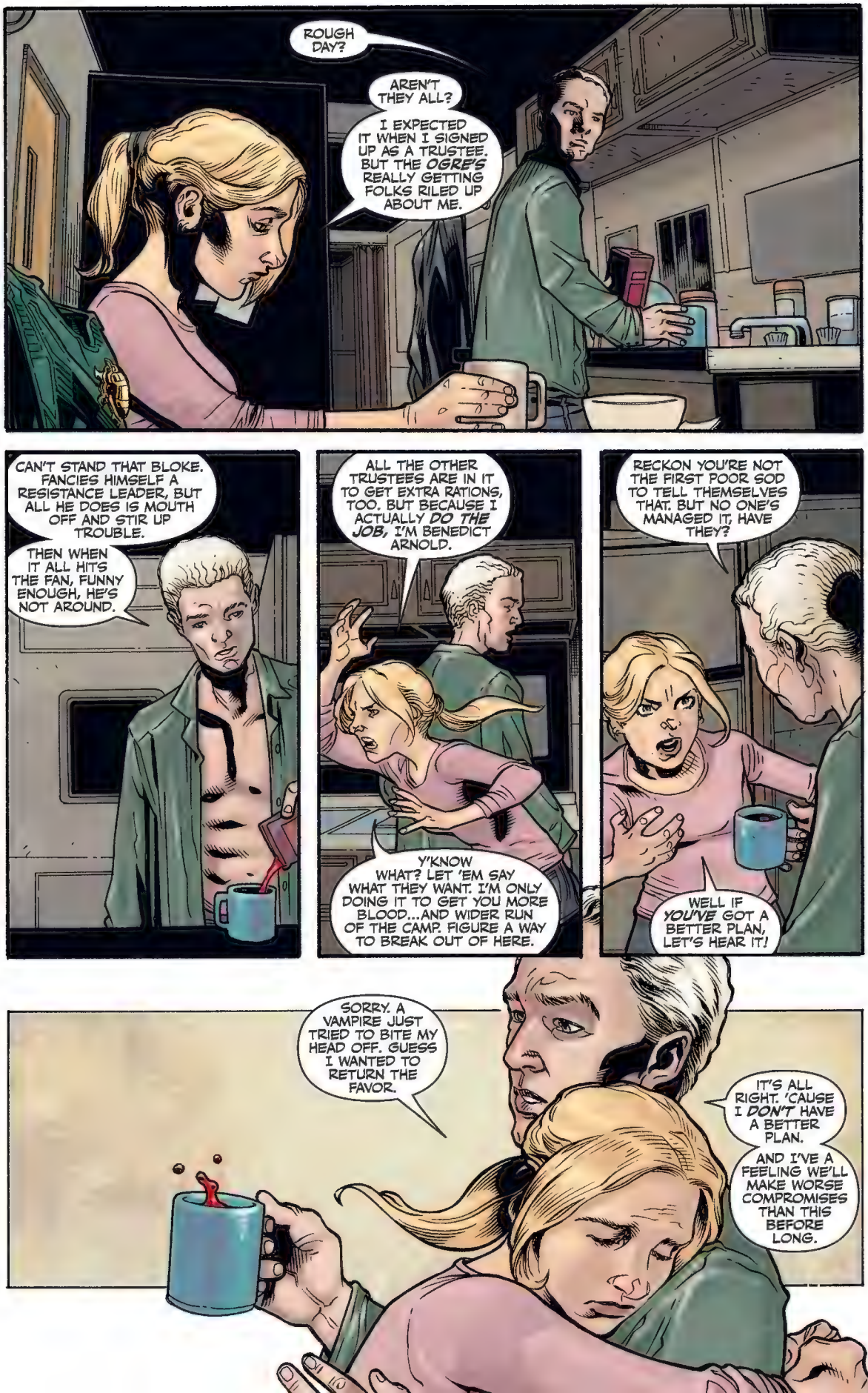
HELP ME! PLEASE, SOMEONE!
NOT MY PROBLEM, PAL.
DIBS ON HIS FOOD RATIONS.

LET HIM GO.

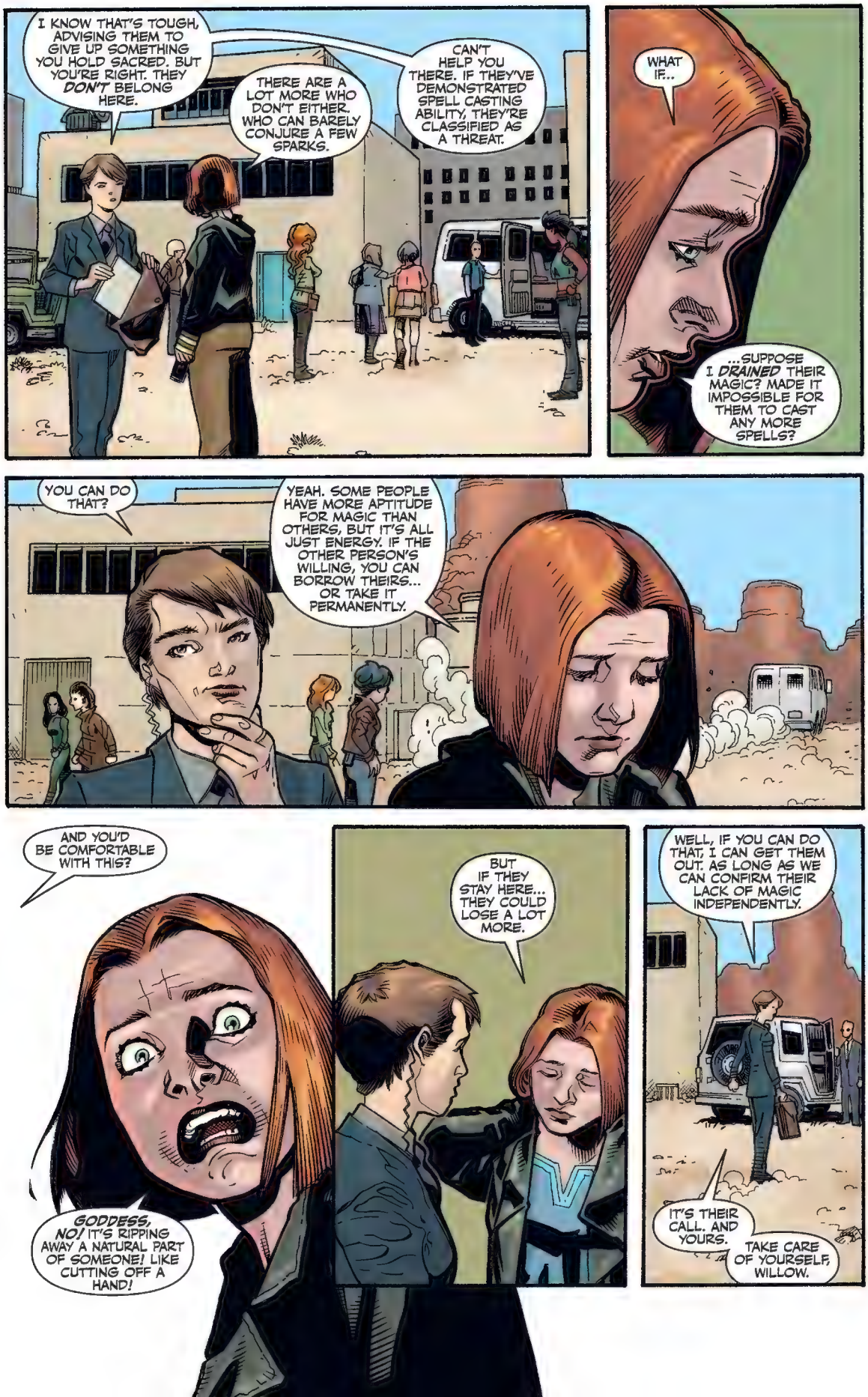
ONLY WARNING.

SURE. YOU JUST MADE ME A BETTER OFFER.
WHY SHOULD YOUR BOYFRIEND BE THE ONLY VAMPIRE IN CAMP THAT GETS TO TASTE SLAYER BLOOD?
I KNOW BLOOD RATIONS ARE LOW. I KNOW YOU'RE HUNGRY.
SO I'M GIVING YOU ONE LAST CHANCE TO STAND DOWN.
THANKS.
THUNK
BUT I'D RATHER DRAIN YOU DRY.


YOUR FUNERAL.
PAF
PAF
YOU OKAY?
Y-YES. PLEASE, I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
ABOUT WHAT? I WAS JUST ASKING--
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
TRAITOR! COLLABORATOR! SHE SIDES WITH THE HUMANS, EVEN THOUGH THEY LOCKED HER IN HERE!
BECAUSE SHE'S A SLAYER, LIKE THE GUARDS! A BORN KILLER! SHE DOESN'T CARE, AS LONG AS SHE GETS TO MURDER US!
SHH! SHE'S A TRUSTEE. SHE CAN KILL YOU WITHOUT ANY CONSEQUENCES.
GO ON, SLAYER, GET OUT OF HERE. GO OPPRESS SOMEONE ELSE.


ROUGH DAY?
AREN'T THEY ALL?
I EXPECTED IT WHEN I SIGNED UP AS A TRUSTEE. BUT THE *OGRE'S* REALLY GETTING FOLKS RILED UP ABOUT ME.
CAN'T STAND THAT BLOKE. FANCIES HIMSELF A RESISTANCE LEADER, BUT ALL HE DOES IS MOUTH OFF AND STIR UP TROUBLE.
THEN WHEN IT ALL HITS THE FAN, FUNNY ENOUGH, HE'S NOT AROUND.
ALL THE OTHER TRUSTEES ARE IN IT TO GET EXTRA RATIONS, TOO. BUT BECAUSE I ACTUALLY *DO THE JOB,* I'M BENEDICT ARNOLD.
Y'KNOW WHAT? LET 'EM SAY WHAT THEY WANT. I'M ONLY DOING IT TO GET YOU MORE BLOOD...AND WIDER RUN OF THE CAMP. FIGURE A WAY TO BREAK OUT OF HERE.
RECKON YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST POOR SOD TO TELL THEMSELVES THAT. BUT NO ONE'S MANAGED IT, HAVE THEY?
WELL IF *YOU'VE* GOT A BETTER PLAN, LET'S HEAR IT!
SORRY. A VAMPIRE JUST TRIED TO BITE MY HEAD OFF. GUESS I WANTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. 'CAUSE I *DON'T* HAVE A BETTER PLAN.
AND I'VE A FEELING WE'LL MAKE WORSE COMPROMISES THAN THIS BEFORE LONG.

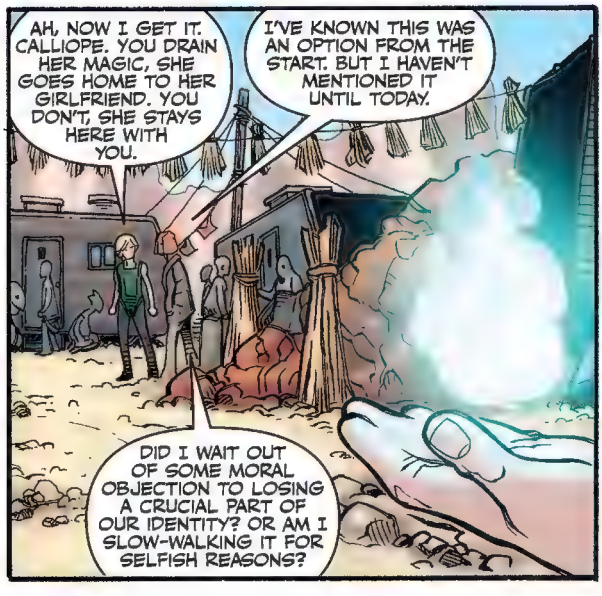
JORDAN TO OPS. OPEN THE FORCE FIELD AT THE MAIN GATE.
WILLOW. GLAD TO SEE YOU LOOKING WELL.
NOT REALLY IN THE MOOD FOR SMALL TALK, LAKE.
IS-- IS THIS REAL? WE GET TO GO HOME?
YOU CAN THANK WILLOW FOR THAT. SHE CONVINCED ME YOU DON'T BELONG HERE. TESTIFIED UNDER OATH THAT, ASIDE FROM BEING WICCAN, YOU'VE NEVER PRACTICED ACTUAL MAGIC.
SIGN HERE. IT'S A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT THAT YOU WON'T ENGAGE IN ANY MAGIC OR SPELL-CASTING ACTIVITY... PUNISHABLE BY PRISON.
BUT IT'S OUR RELIGION! HOW IS THIS CONSTITUTIONAL?
YOU CAN BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU WANT. THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR. THE "YELLING FIRE IN A CROWDED THEATER" STANDARD.
AND SINCE I'M NOT A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, THAT'S ALL YOU GET FROM ME. YOU'D RATHER NOT SIGN AND STAY HERE, THAT'S FINE.
KELLY... I THINK YOU SHOULD SIGN IT.
IT'S JUST NOT SAFE HERE.


I KNOW THAT'S TOUGH, ADVISING THEM TO GIVE UP SOMETHING YOU HOLD SACRED. BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY *DON'T* BELONG HERE.
THERE ARE A LOT MORE WHO DON'T EITHER. WHO CAN BARELY CONJURE A FEW SPARKS.
CAN'T HELP YOU THERE. IF THEY'VE DEMONSTRATED SPELL CASTING ABILITY, THEY'RE CLASSIFIED AS A THREAT.
WHAT IF...
...SUPPOSE I *DRAINED* THEIR MAGIC? MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO CAST ANY MORE SPELLS?
YOU CAN DO THAT?
YEAH. SOME PEOPLE HAVE MORE APTITUDE FOR MAGIC THAN OTHERS, BUT IT'S ALL JUST ENERGY. IF THE OTHER PERSON'S WILLING, YOU CAN BORROW THEIRS... OR TAKE IT PERMANENTLY.
AND YOU'D BE COMFORTABLE WITH THIS?
GODDESS, NO! IT'S RIPPING AWAY A NATURAL PART OF SOMEONE! LIKE CUTTING OFF A HAND!
BUT IF THEY STAY HERE... THEY COULD LOSE A LOT MORE.
WELL, IF YOU CAN DO THAT, I CAN GET THEM OUT. AS LONG AS WE CAN CONFIRM THEIR LACK OF MAGIC INDEPENDENTLY.
IT'S THEIR CALL. AND YOURS.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, WILLOW.

WHAT DO THE GIRLS THINK?
I HAVEN'T TOLD THEM YET.
WHY NOT? THEY'RE ADULTS... MOST OF THEM. THEY CAN MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES.

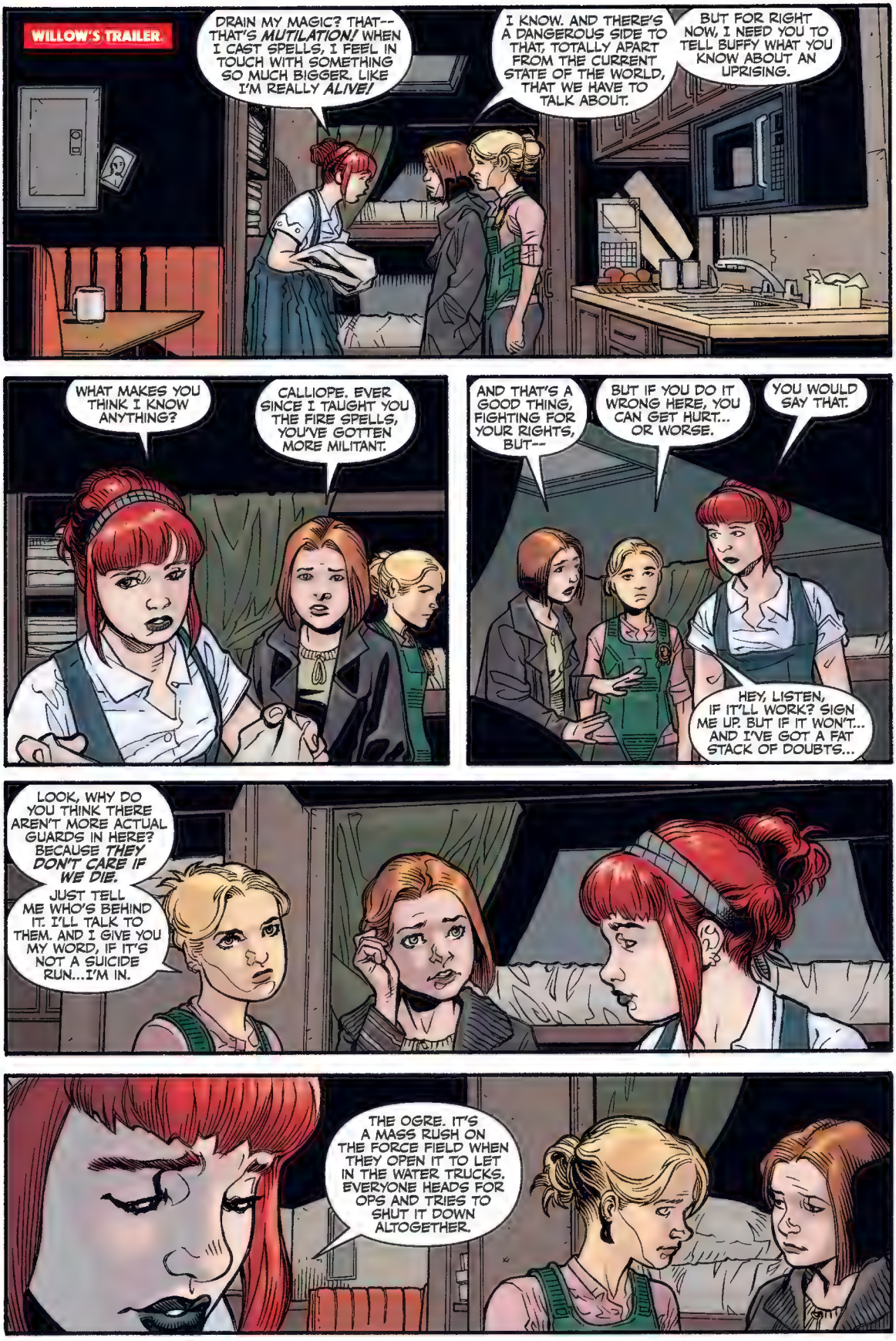
BUT IT'S NOT REALLY A *FREE* CHOICE, IS IT?
I GUESS...I WANT TO BE SURE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. AND THAT I'M DOING IT--

--OR *NOT* DOING IT--FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.


AH, NOW I GET IT. CALLIOPE. YOU DRAIN HER MAGIC, SHE GOES HOME TO HER GIRLFRIEND. YOU DON'T, SHE STAYS HERE WITH YOU.
I'VE KNOWN THIS WAS AN OPTION FROM THE START. BUT I HAVEN'T MENTIONED IT UNTIL TODAY.
DID I WAIT OUT OF SOME MORAL OBJECTION TO LOSING A CRUCIAL PART OF OUR IDENTITY? OR AM I SLOW-WALKING IT FOR SELFISH REASONS?

WIL, YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST PEOPLE I KNOW. YOU'LL DO WHAT'S RIGHT. IT'S HOW YOU'RE WIRED.
ANYWAY, WHO SAYS THEY'RE NOT SAFER HERE, WITH YOU? DAWN TOLD ME HATE CRIMES AGAINST WICCANS ARE A FACT OF LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE.

I KNOW. AND IT MAKES ME FURIOUS THAT I HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN PROTECTING THE ONES IN HERE OR THE ONES OUT THERE.
I JUST WISH THIS WAS OVER. I WISH THEY'D DO WHATEVER THEY'RE GOING TO DO AND CLOSE THIS PLACE DOWN.
YEAH...
THEY *ARE* GOING TO SHUT IT DOWN, RIGHT? THIS IS *TEMPORARY.*
WIL, HOW WOULD I KNOW?
I MEAN, IT'S GOT TO BE, RIGHT? IT CAN'T WORK LONG TERM. BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M INVITED TO THE MEETINGS.
TELL YOU WHAT. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR GIRLS...I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT ABOUT A TIMETABLE.
IT'LL HELP IF I CAN BRING THEM SOMETHING. SHOW I'M DOING MY JOB.
SPIKE SAYS HE'S HEARD RUMORS OF AN UPRISING. SOMETHING THE BIRD-MAN SAID TODAY FIT WITH THAT.
YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
JUST WHISPERS, WHEN THEY THINK I'M NOT LISTENING.
WIL, YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME! IT'LL NEVER WORK. THEY'LL JUST GET THEMSELVES KILLED.
I...I KNOW. COME WITH ME. LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT.


WILLOW'S TRAILER
DRAIN MY MAGIC? THAT-- THAT'S MUTILATION! WHEN I CAST SPELLS, I FEEL IN TOUCH WITH SOMETHING SO MUCH BIGGER. LIKE I'M REALLY ALIVE!
I KNOW. AND THERE'S A DANGEROUS SIDE TO THAT, TOTALLY APART FROM THE CURRENT STATE OF THE WORLD, THAT WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT.
BUT FOR RIGHT NOW, I NEED YOU TO TELL BUFFY WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT AN UPRISING.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I KNOW ANYTHING?
CALLIOPE. EVER SINCE I TAUGHT YOU THE FIRE SPELLS, YOU'VE GOTTEN MORE MILITANT.
AND THAT'S A GOOD THING, FIGHTING FOR YOUR RIGHTS, BUT--
BUT IF YOU DO IT WRONG HERE, YOU CAN GET HURT... OR WORSE.
YOU WOULD SAY THAT.
HEY, LISTEN, IF IT'LL WORK? SIGN ME UP. BUT IF IT WON'T... AND I'VE GOT A FAT STACK OF DOUBTS...
LOOK, WHY DO YOU THINK THERE AREN'T MORE ACTUAL GUARDS IN HERE? BECAUSE THEY DON'T CARE IF WE DIE.
JUST TELL ME WHO'S BEHIND IT. I'LL TALK TO THEM. AND I GIVE YOU MY WORD, IF IT'S NOT A SUICIDE RUN...I'M IN.
THE OGRE. IT'S A MASS RUSH ON THE FORCE FIELD WHEN THEY OPEN IT TO LET IN THE WATER TRUCKS. EVERYONE HEADS FOR OPS AND TRIES TO SHUT IT DOWN ALTOGETHER.

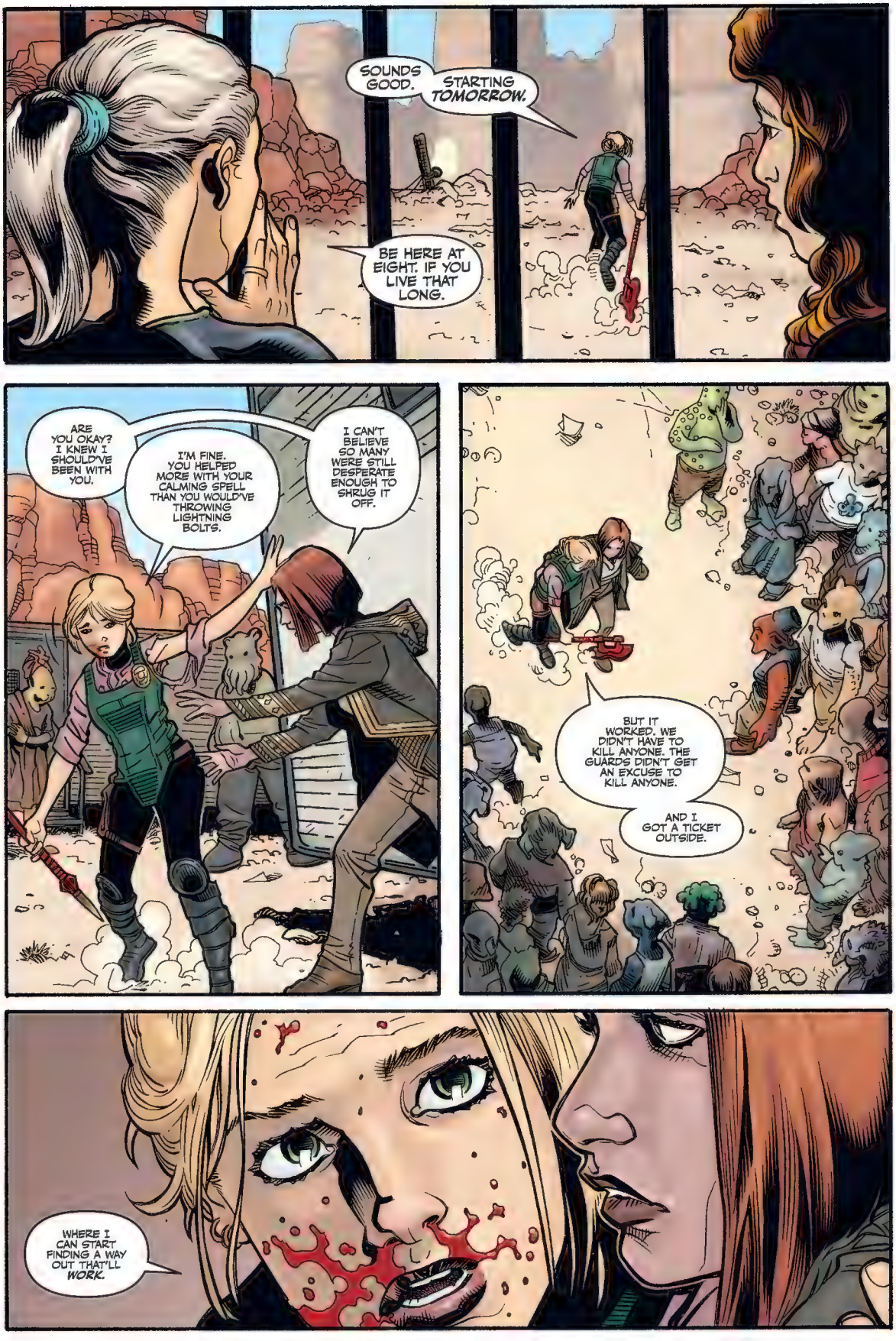
"AND IT'S TODAY."
ON MY SIGNAL.
FUMP

SHUT IT DOWN.
YOU'LL GET THEM ALL KILLED.
THAT'S IT!
NNGK--
YOU'RE DONE, YOU TRAITOROUS--
KNK
WHMP
WHOOF--

KRRRNNNCHH!
TEPP
EVERYONE WHO CAN SEE I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR, GO HOME.
IF YOU CAN'T...LET'S DO THIS.

TEAR HER APART!
LET'S--
NO. I'VE GOT THIS.
SUIT YOURSELF.
JORDAN TO OPS. GOT A SITUATION HERE. SEAL THE FORCE FIELD.

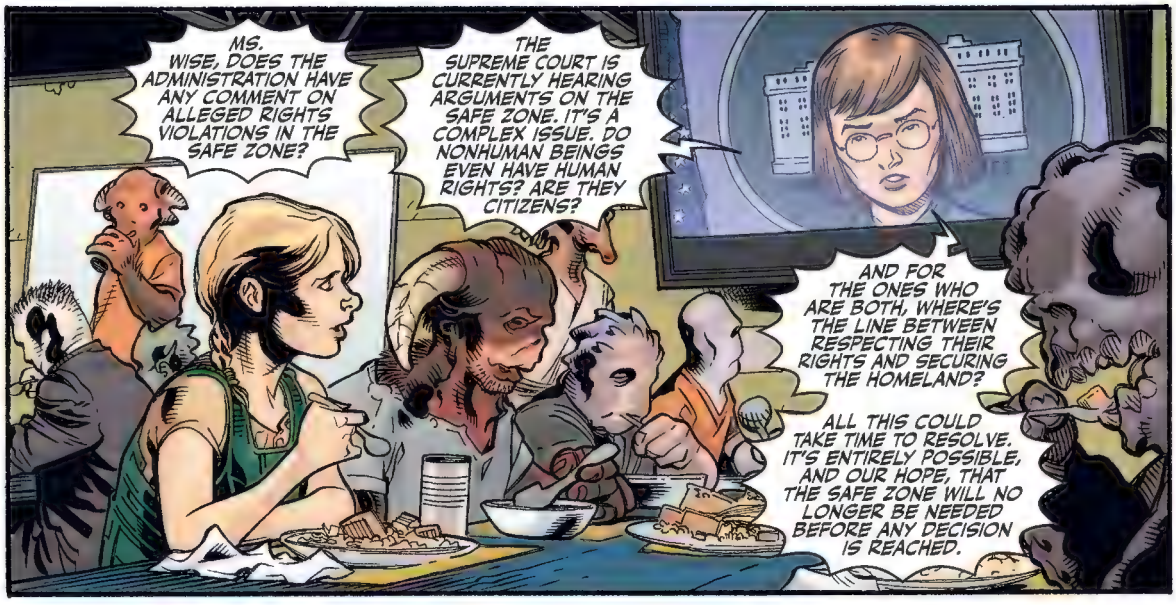
GO HOME.
IT'S OVER!
THE FORCE FIELD'S BACK UP! IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED ANYWAY, AND NOW THERE'S NO CHANCE!
I GOTTA SAY, SUMMERS...
YOU DID YOUR JOB. AND MADE YOURSELF THE LEAST POPULAR GIRL ON CAMPUS.
MAYBE YOU BETTER WORK OUTSIDE THE FORCE FIELD FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. GUARD THE WORK CREWS. YOU EARNED IT.

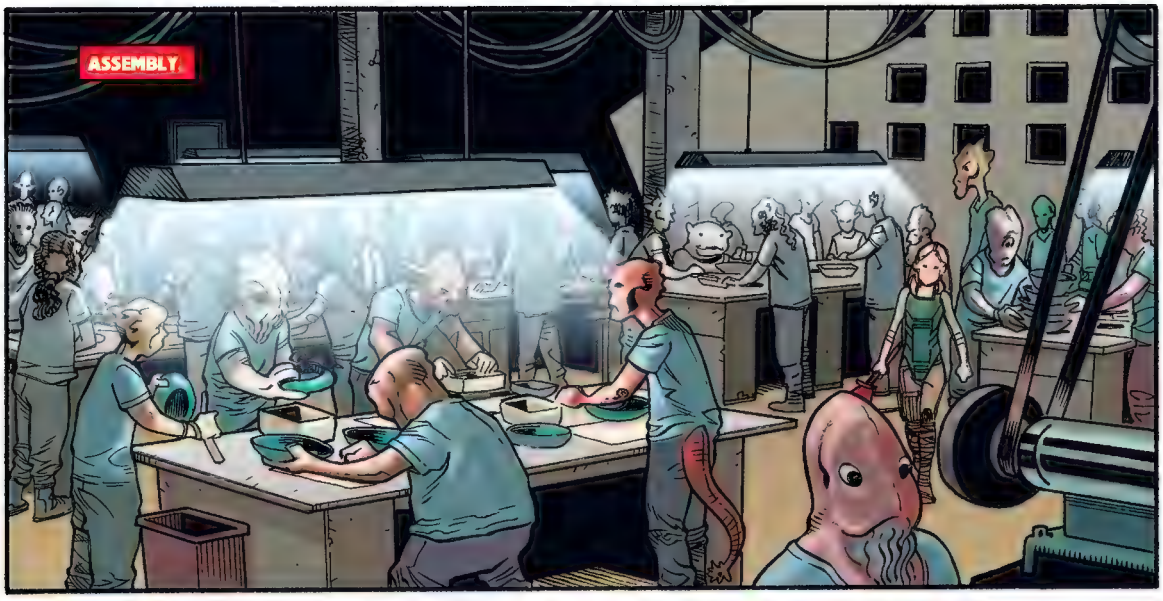

SOUNDS GOOD.
STARTING TOMORROW.
BE HERE AT EIGHT. IF YOU LIVE THAT LONG.
ARE YOU OKAY? I KNEW I SHOULD'VE BEEN WITH YOU.
I'M FINE. YOU HELPED MORE WITH YOUR CALMING SPELL THAN YOU WOULD'VE THROWING LIGHTNING BOLTS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SO MANY WERE STILL DESPERATE ENOUGH TO SHRUG IT OFF.
BUT IT WORKED. WE DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL ANYONE. THE GUARDS DIDN'T GET AN EXCUSE TO KILL ANYONE.
AND I GOT A TICKET OUTSIDE.
WHERE I CAN START FINDING A WAY OUT THAT'LL WORK.

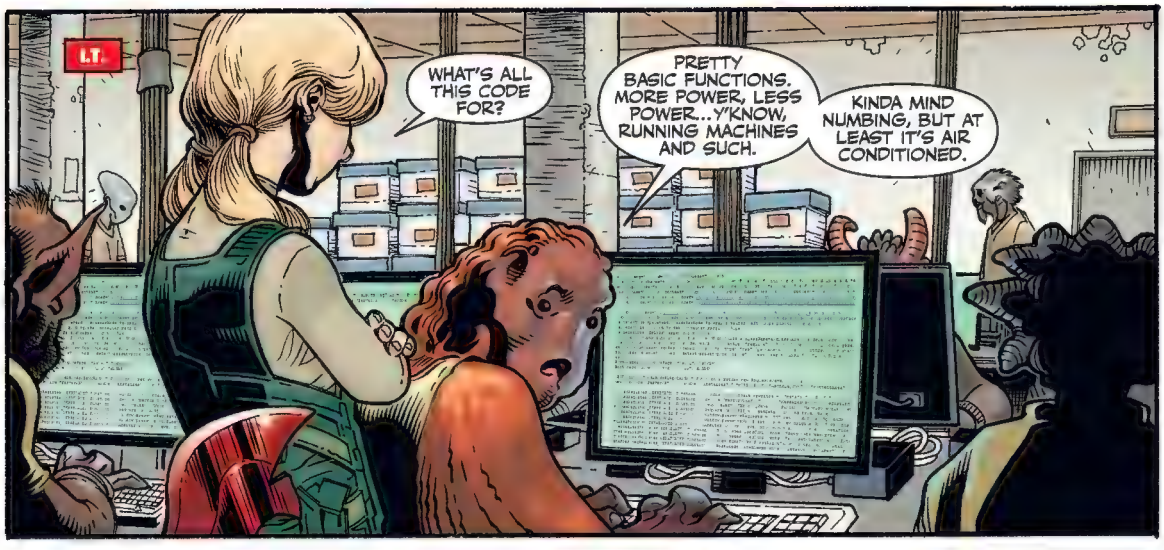
THE NEXT MORNING.
SO, WHAT DO I DO?
FOLLOW THE WORK CREWS. KEEP AN EYE ON 'EM. MAKE SURE THEY DON'T TRY ANYTHING STUPID. THAT'S ALL.
HOW DO YOU KNOW I WON'T MAKE A RUN FOR IT?
BE MY GUEST. WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. YOU'D DIE OF EXPOSURE...
...IF WE DIDN'T FIND YOU FIRST.
AND COME ON, LIKE YOU'RE GONNA LEAVE VAMPIRE BAE AND THE NO-LONGER-TEENAGE WITCH. WE DON'T EVEN *NEED* TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
BUT IF YOU GET ANY SMART IDEAS... THIS MIGHT JUST TURN OUT TO BE AN INTERESTING DAY.

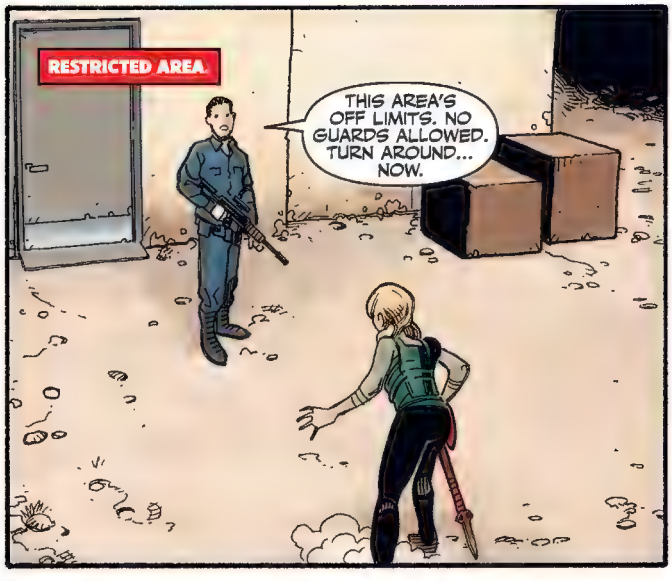
METALWORK
WHATCHA MAKING?
MACHINE PARTS. WHICH IS ABOUT AS EXCITING AS IT SOUNDS.

YOU GOT ANY MORE DEMON FLESH? THAT ALWAYS FETCHES A GOOD PRICE. DAMNED IF I KNOW WHY.
YEAH, AND THE DONORS ALWAYS WANT A BIG CUT. BUT I'LL GET SOME. NEXT TIME FOR SURE.

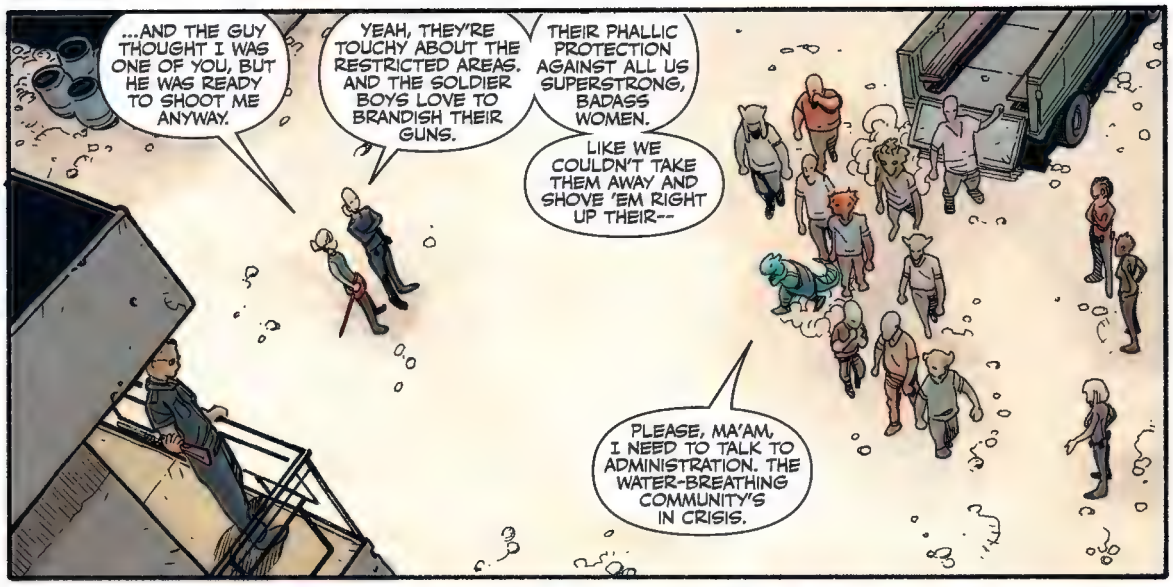

MS. WISE, DOES THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE ANY COMMENT ON ALLEGED RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SAFE ZONE?
THE SUPREME COURT IS CURRENTLY HEARING ARGUMENTS ON THE SAFE ZONE. IT'S A COMPLEX ISSUE. DO NONHUMAN BEINGS EVEN HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS? ARE THEY CITIZENS?
AND FOR THE ONES WHO ARE BOTH, WHERE'S THE LINE BETWEEN RESPECTING THEIR RIGHTS AND SECURING THE HOMELAND?
ALL THIS COULD TAKE TIME TO RESOLVE. IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE, AND OUR HOPE, THAT THE SAFE ZONE WILL NO LONGER BE NEEDED BEFORE ANY DECISION IS REACHED.


ASSEMBLY

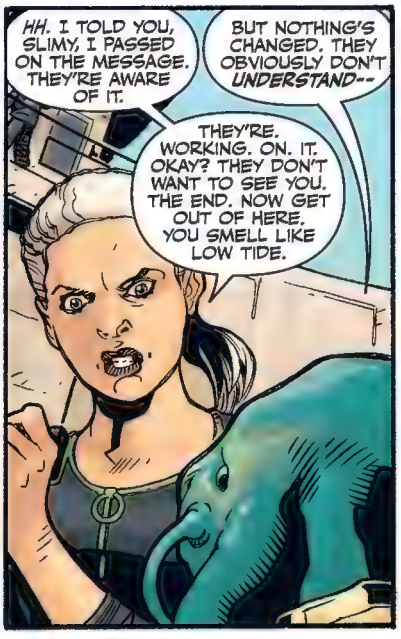

L.T.
WHAT'S ALL THIS CODE FOR?
PRETTY BASIC FUNCTIONS. MORE POWER, LESS POWER...Y'KNOW, RUNNING MACHINES AND SUCH.
KINDA MIND NUMBING, BUT AT LEAST IT'S AIR CONDITIONED.

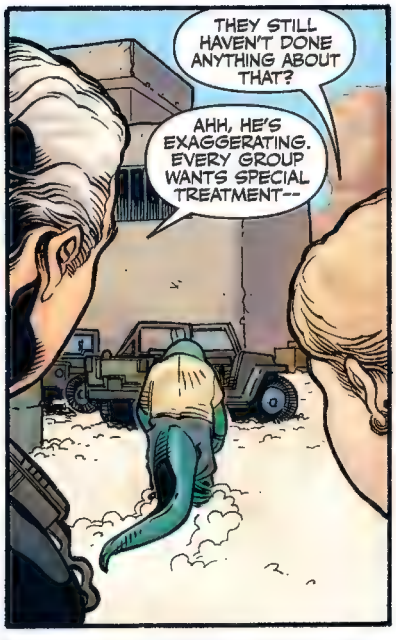

RESTRICTED AREA
THIS AREA'S OFF LIMITS. NO GUARDS ALLOWED. TURN AROUND... NOW.

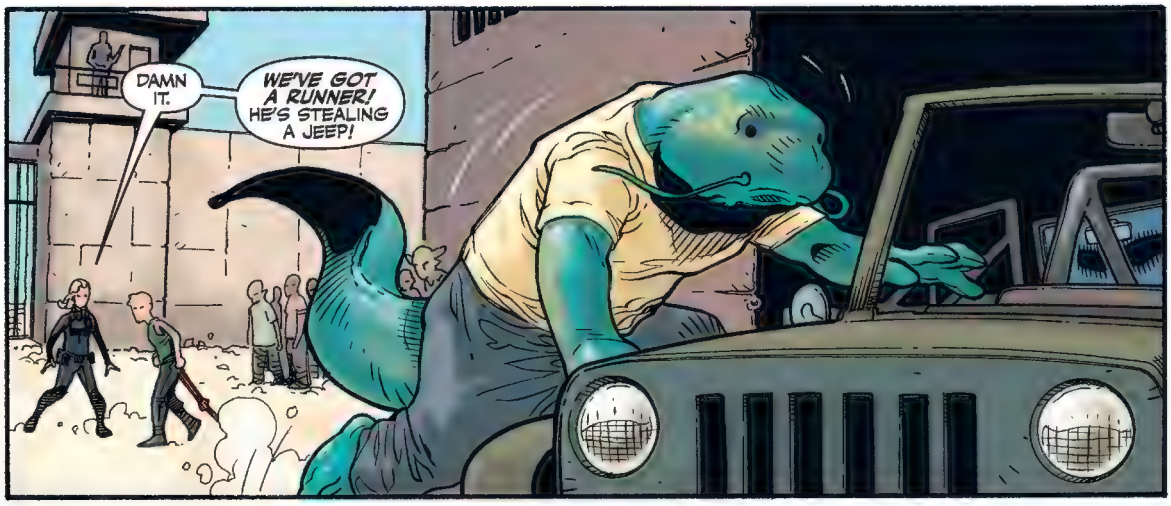
OKAY, OKAY, RELAX.

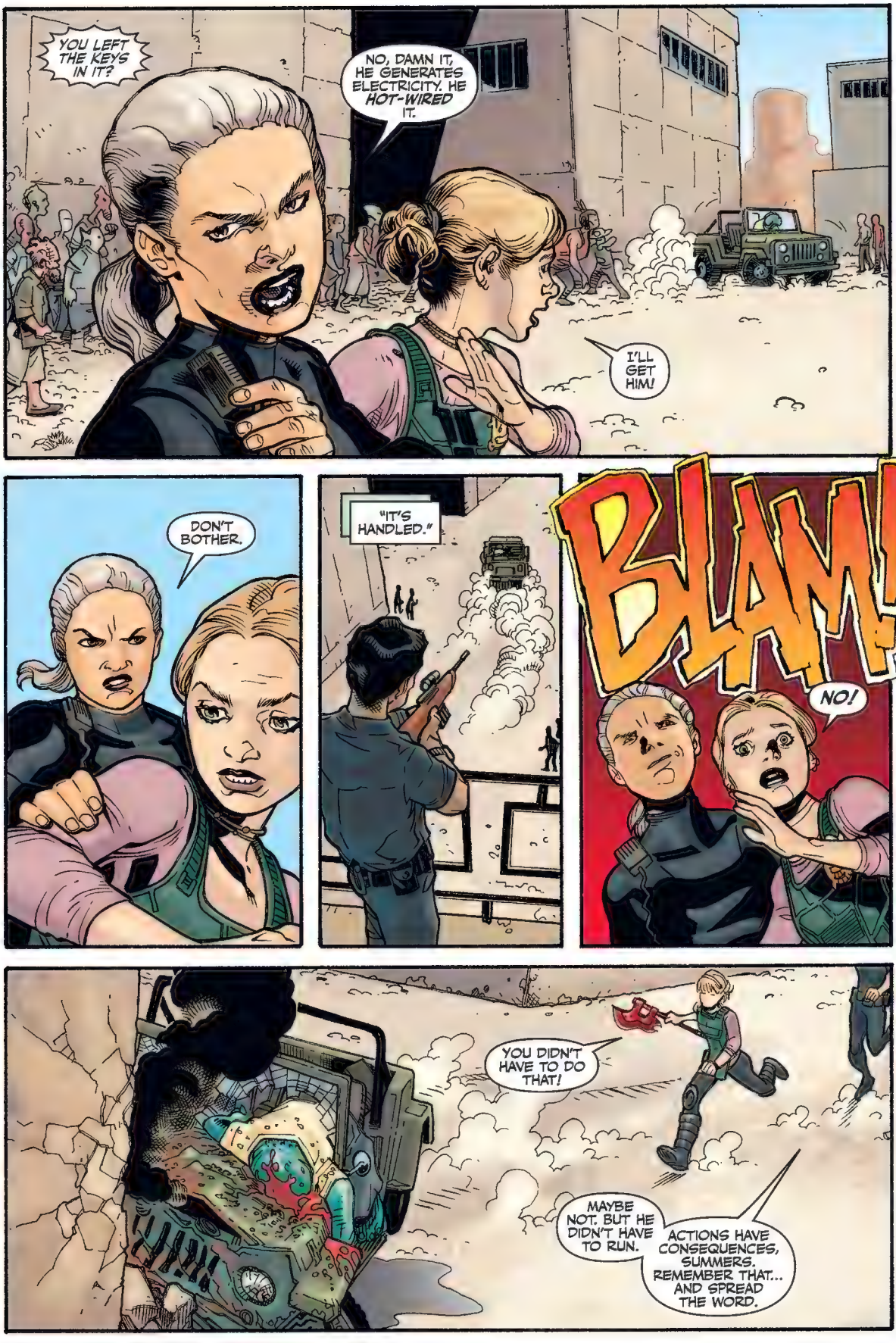

...AND THE GUY THOUGHT I WAS ONE OF YOU, BUT HE WAS READY TO SHOOT ME ANYWAY.
YEAH, THEY'RE TOUCHY ABOUT THE RESTRICTED AREAS. AND THE SOLDIER BOYS LOVE TO BRANDISH THEIR GUNS.
THEIR PHALLIC PROTECTION AGAINST ALL US SUPERSTRONG, BADASS WOMEN.
LIKE WE COULDN'T TAKE THEM AWAY AND SHOVE 'EM RIGHT UP THEIR--
PLEASE, MA'AM, I NEED TO TALK TO ADMINISTRATION. THE WATER-BREATHING COMMUNITY'S IN CRISIS.

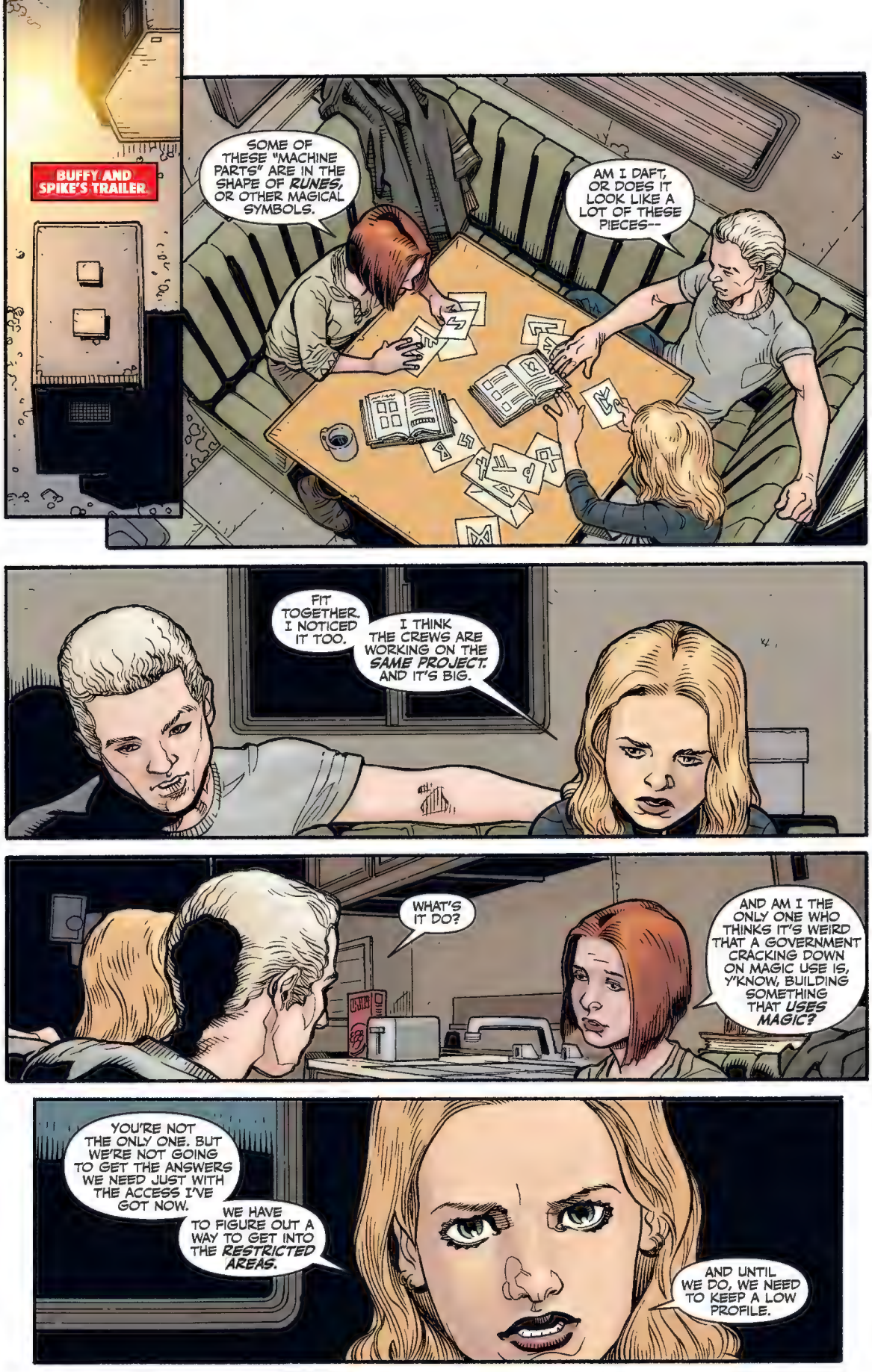
IT'S OKAY FOR ME, I'M AMPHIBIOUS, BUT THE OTHERS ARE DYING IN DROVES!


HH. I TOLD YOU, SLIMY, I PASSED ON THE MESSAGE. THEY'RE AWARE OF IT.
BUT NOTHING'S CHANGED. THEY OBVIOUSLY DON'T *UNDERSTAND*--
THEY'RE. WORKING. ON. IT. OKAY? THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU. THE END. NOW GET OUT OF HERE. YOU SMELL LIKE LOW TIDE.

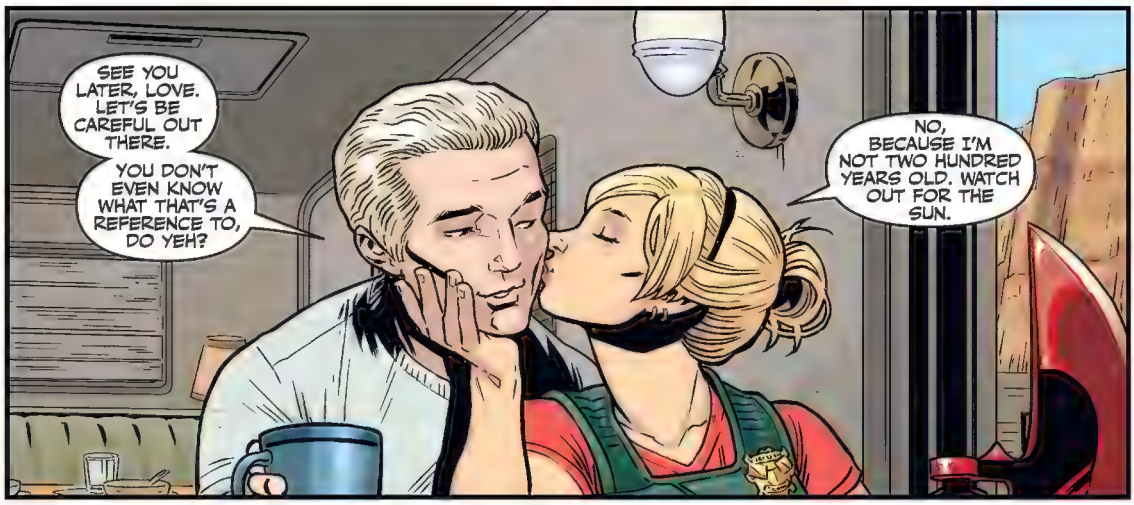

THEY STILL HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
AHH, HE'S EXAGGERATING. EVERY GROUP WANTS SPECIAL TREATMENT--


DAMN IT.
WE'VE GOT A RUNNER! HE'S STEALING A JEEP!


YOU LEFT THE KEYS IN IT?
NO, DAMN IT, HE GENERATES ELECTRICITY. HE HOT-WIRED IT.
I'LL GET HIM!
DON'T BOTHER.
"IT'S HANDLED."
BLAM!
NO!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
MAYBE NOT. BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN.
ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES, SUMMERS. REMEMBER THAT... AND SPREAD THE WORD.

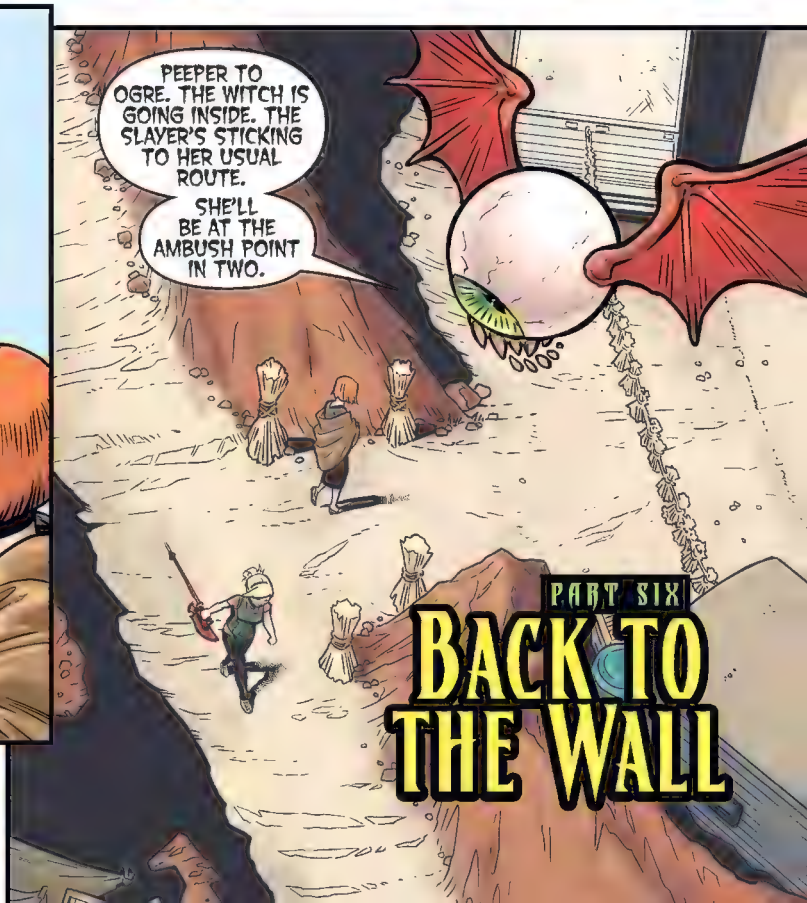

BUFFY AND SPIKE'S TRAILER
SOME OF THESE "MACHINE PARTS" ARE IN THE SHAPE OF RUNES, OR OTHER MAGICAL SYMBOLS.
AM I DAFT, OR DOES IT LOOK LIKE A LOT OF THESE PIECES--
FIT TOGETHER. I NOTICED IT TOO.
I THINK THE CREWS ARE WORKING ON THE SAME PROJECT. AND IT'S BIG.
WHAT'S IT DO?
AND AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS IT'S WEIRD THAT A GOVERNMENT CRACKING DOWN ON MAGIC USE IS, Y'KNOW, BUILDING SOMETHING THAT USES MAGIC?
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE. BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET THE ANSWERS WE NEED JUST WITH THE ACCESS I'VE GOT NOW.
WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET INTO THE RESTRICTED AREAS.
AND UNTIL WE DO, WE NEED TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE.

ELSEWHERE.
SHE RUINED IT. THAT COULD'VE BEEN OUR CHANCE AT FREEDOM. OUR ONLY CHANCE.
THEY GAVE A MURDERER A BADGE. AND TURNED HER LOOSE AMONG US.
I DUNNO...SHE COULD'VE KILLED A LOT OF US AT THE BREAKOUT, BUT SHE DIDN'T.
PROBABLY ONLY 'CAUSE THE GUARDS WERE WATCHING.
SO IT'S SETTLED. EVEN IF IT BRINGS HEAT DOWN ON US, WE HAVE TO DO IT. FOR US TO SURVIVE...
...THE SLAYER HAS TO DIE.


SEE YOU LATER, LOVE. LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT'S A REFERENCE TO, DO YEH?
NO, BECAUSE I'M NOT TWO HUNDRED YEARS OLD. WATCH OUT FOR THE SUN.

SO TODAY'S THE DAY, HUH?
YEAH. I'VE GOT FIVE WHO WANT ME TO DRAIN THEIR MAGIC SO THEY CAN GET RELEASED.
BUFFY, AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING?

I KNOW TAKING MAGIC FROM A WICCAN SEEMS LIKE THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT. BUT THINGS KEEP GETTING WORSE IN HERE.
YOU'RE DOING WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM, WIL, EVEN THOUGH IT'S HARD. THAT IS THE *DEFINITION* OF THE RIGHT THING.

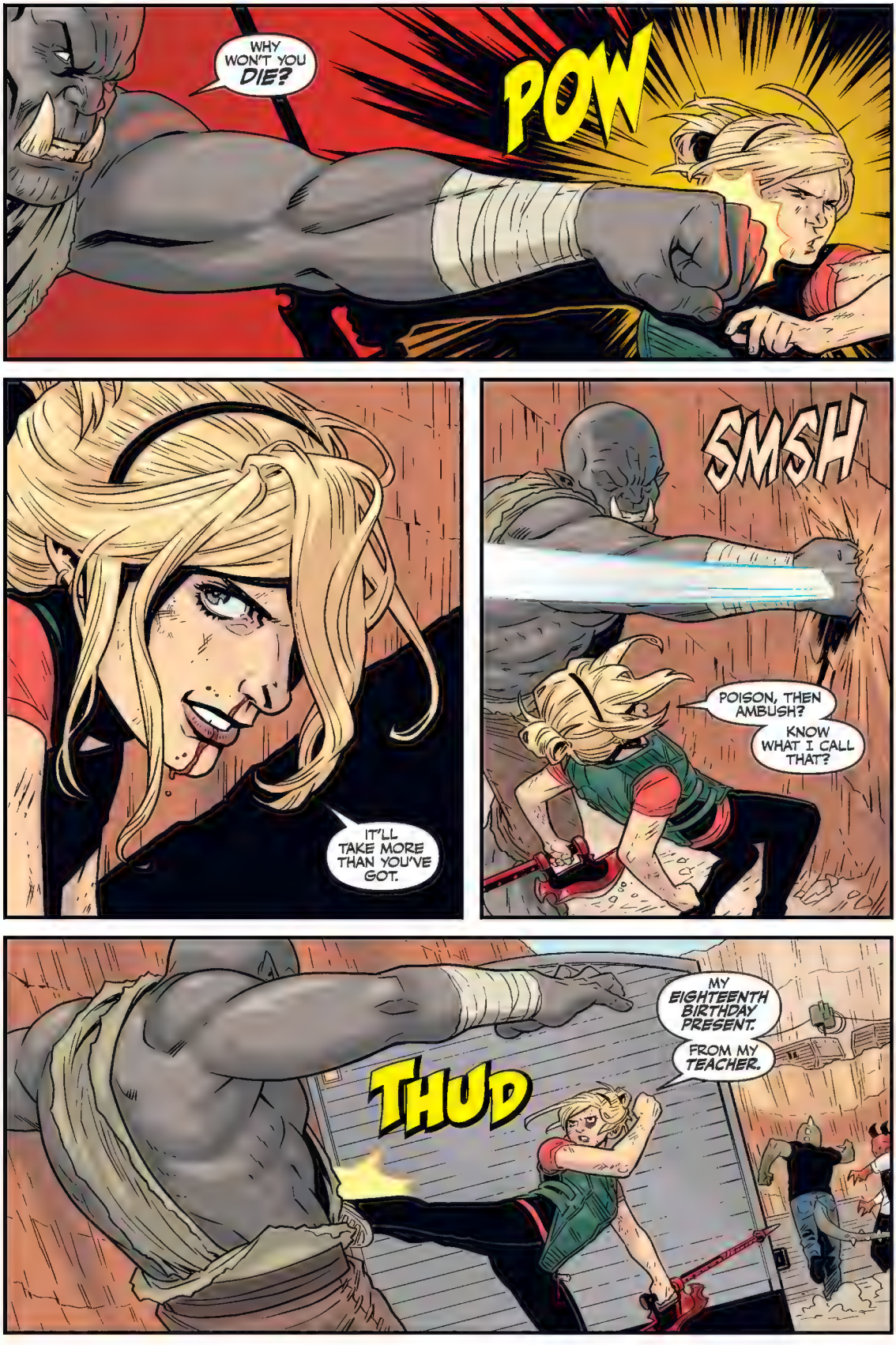

PEEPER TO OGRE. THE WITCH IS GOING INSIDE. THE SLAYER'S STICKING TO HER USUAL ROUTE.
SHE'LL BE AT THE AMBUSH POINT IN TWO.
PART SIX
BACK TO THE WALL

ALL TEAMS IN POSITION. KARRIOK, WAIT UNTIL SHE GETS TO THE MIDPOINT.
COPY THAT.
WHSST

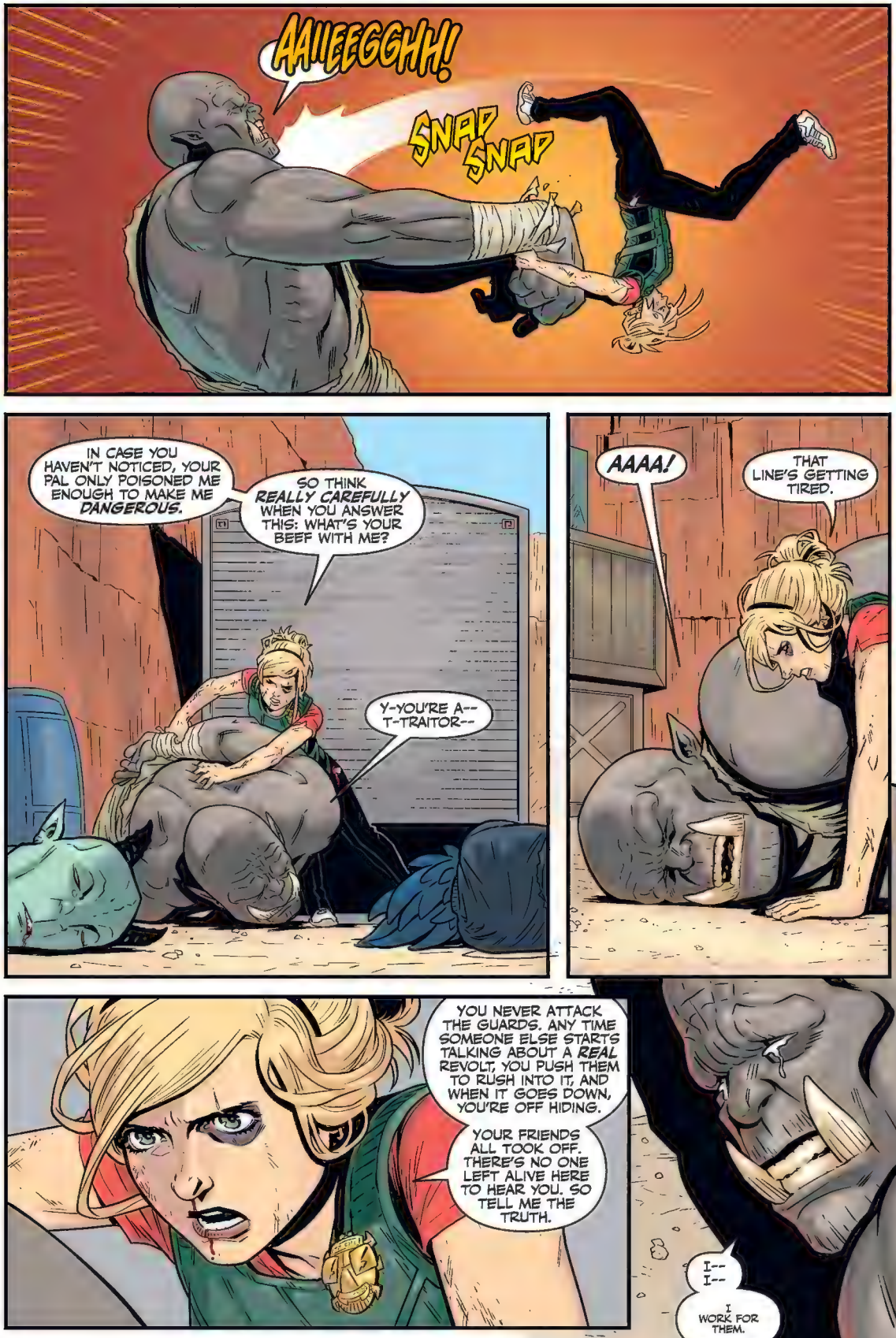
SPANG
TANG
TANG
AGH!
SHTK
DAMNATION! ONLY HIT HER ONCE.
THAT'S ALL WE NEED. LOOK AT HER, YOUR POISON'S MAKING HER WOOZY. THIS'LL BE EASY.
FIRE UP THE GRILL.
TONIGHT WE EAT SLAYER MEAT.

SLLCK
EAT THIS.
SLAUGHTER HER!

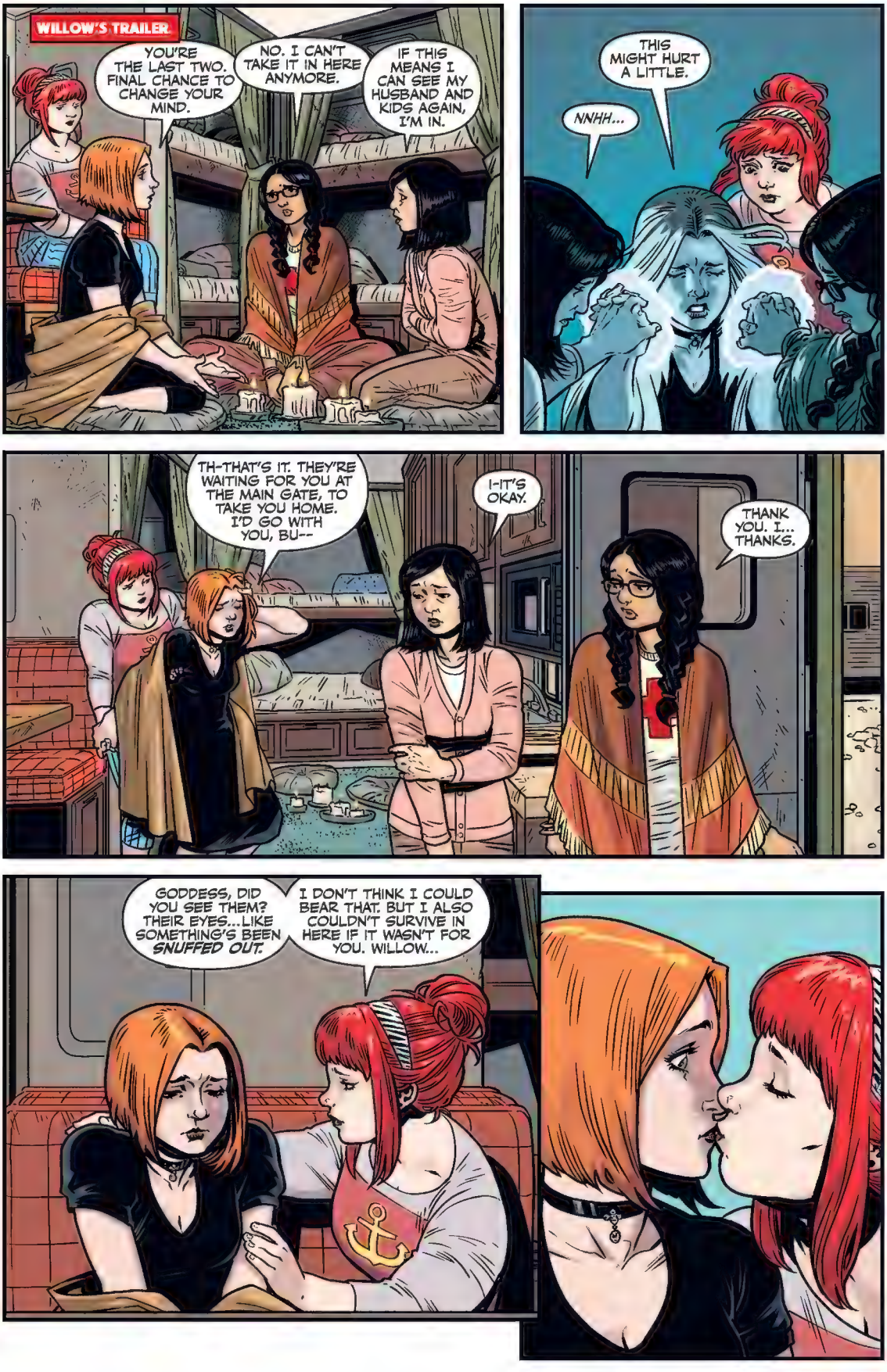
SHNT
WHUMP
HRRAAGGHH!

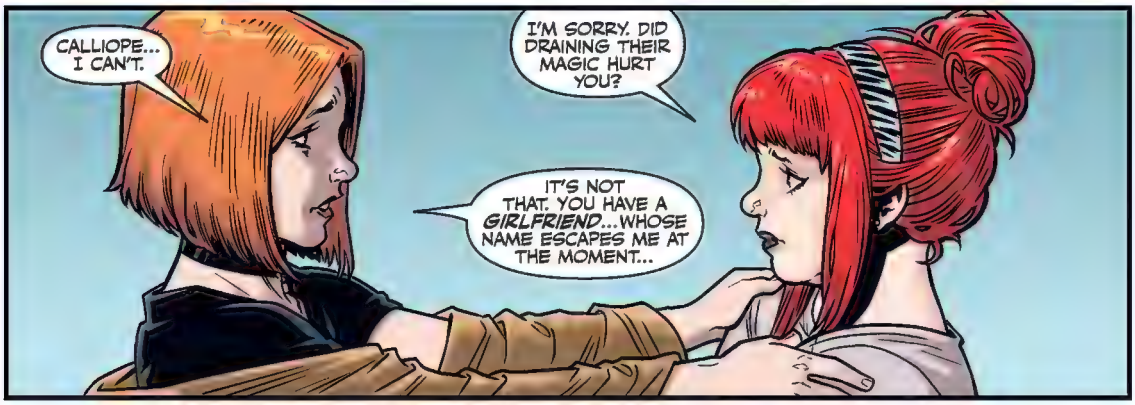

WHY WON'T YOU DIE?
POW
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOU'VE GOT.
SMSH
POISON, THEN AMBUSH?
KNOW WHAT I CALL THAT?
THUD
MY EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY PRESENT.
FROM MY TEACHER.

NO MORE BIRTHDAYS.
WHACK
NO MORE ANYTHING FOR YOU.
NNNN
HRRRGG


AAIIEEGGHH!
SNAP SNAP
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, YOUR PAL ONLY POISONED ME ENOUGH TO MAKE ME *DANGEROUS.*
SO THINK *REALLY CAREFULLY* WHEN YOU ANSWER THIS: WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH ME?
Y-YOU'RE A-- T-TRAITOR--
AAAA!
THAT LINE'S GETTING TIRED.
YOU NEVER ATTACK THE GUARDS. ANY TIME SOMEONE ELSE STARTS TALKING ABOUT A *REAL* REVOLT, YOU PUSH THEM TO RUSH INTO IT, AND WHEN IT GOES DOWN, YOU'RE OFF HIDING.
YOUR FRIENDS ALL TOOK OFF. THERE'S NO ONE LEFT ALIVE HERE TO HEAR YOU. SO TELL ME THE TRUTH.
I-- I--
I WORK FOR THEM.

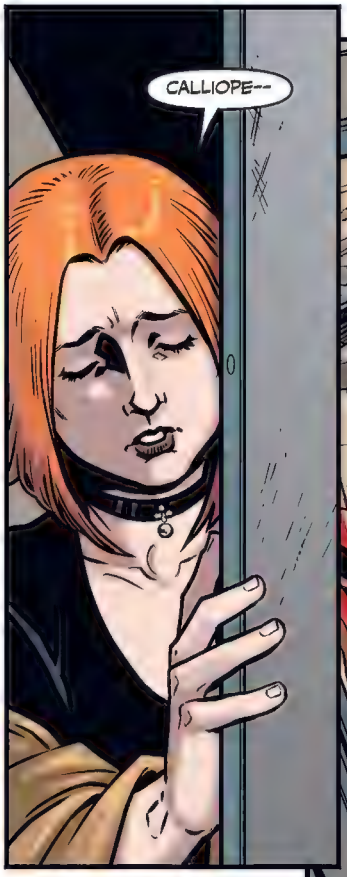
THE GUARDS? I THOUGHT SO. AND YOU OBVIOUSLY KNOW IF THAT GETS OUT, YOU'RE DEAD BEFORE YOU GET TWO STEPS.
I'LL KEEP IT QUIET, ON TWO CONDITIONS. ONE: STOP INFORMING. SHOULD BE EASY FOR A WHILE, YOU'LL BE LAID UP. TWO...
...SPILL EVERYTHING.
ABOUT THE PROJECT EVERYONE'S WORKING ON OUTSIDE.
THEY DON'T TELL ME MUCH. I KNOW IT'S ALL CONNECTED, SOMETHING TO DO WITH COMBINING SCIENCE AND MAGIC. I HELP THEM PICK OUT WORK CREWS...NO ONE TOO SMART.
THEY SAID WHEN IT'S FINISHED, IT'LL LET US GET OUT OF HERE. BUT I'M NOT AS DENSE AS THEY THINK. THERE'S SOME KIND OF CATCH.
OKAY.
WORD OF ADVICE--STAY OUT OF MY WAY. COME TO THINK OF IT...
...STAY OUT OF EVERYONE'S WAY.


WILLOW'S TRAILER
YOU'RE THE LAST TWO. FINAL CHANCE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND.
NO. I CAN'T TAKE IT IN HERE ANYMORE.
IF THIS MEANS I CAN SEE MY HUSBAND AND KIDS AGAIN, I'M IN.
THIS MIGHT HURT A LITTLE.
NNHH...
TH-THAT'S IT. THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE MAIN GATE, TO TAKE YOU HOME. I'D GO WITH YOU, BU--
I-IT'S OKAY.
THANK YOU. I... THANKS.
GODDESS, DID YOU SEE THEM? THEIR EYES...LIKE SOMETHING'S BEEN SNUFFED OUT.
I DON'T THINK I COULD BEAR THAT. BUT I ALSO COULDN'T SURVIVE IN HERE IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU. WILLOW...

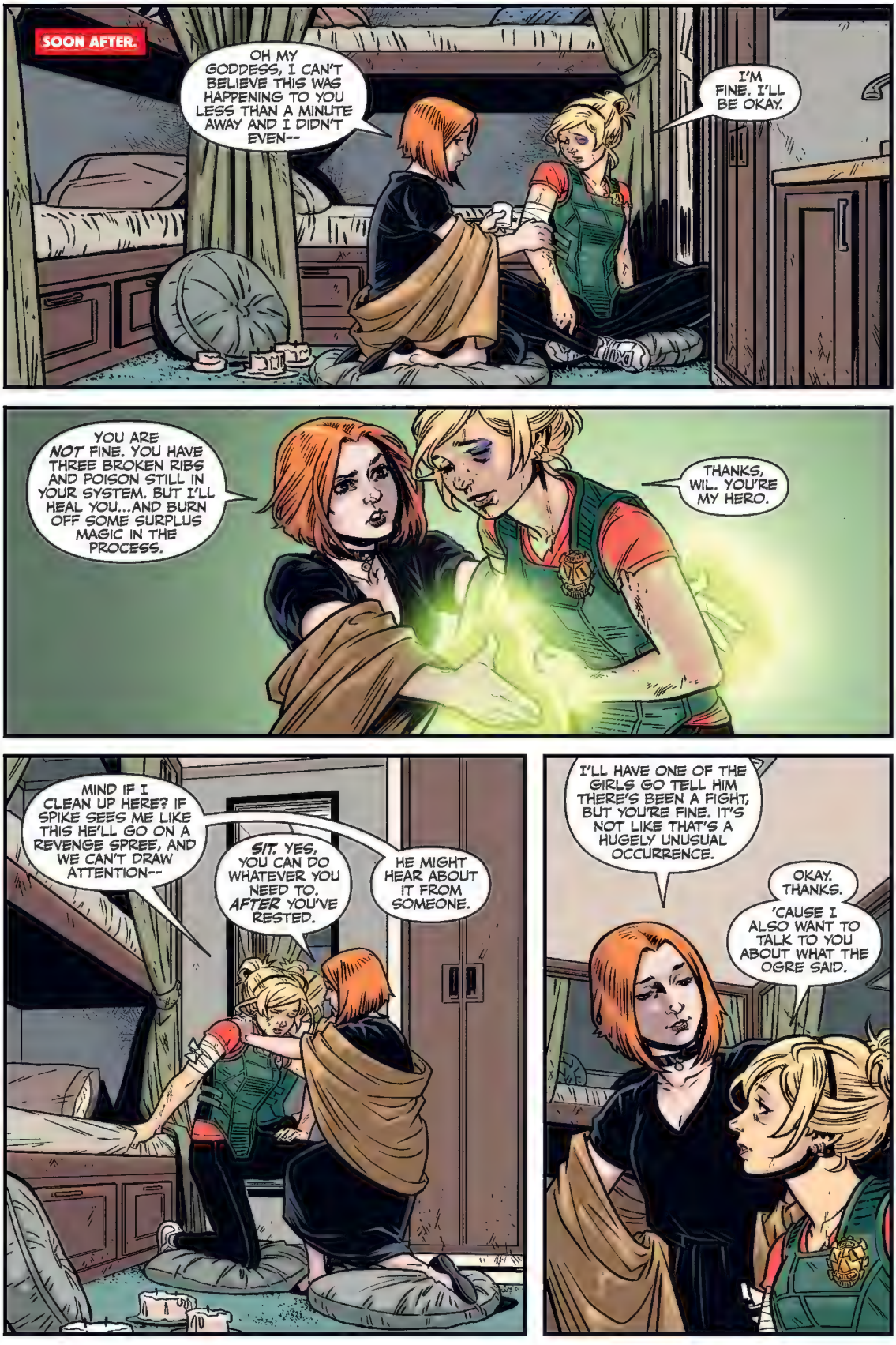

CALLIOPE... I CAN'T.
I'M SORRY. DID DRAINING THEIR MAGIC HURT YOU?
IT'S NOT THAT. YOU HAVE A *GIRLFRIEND*...WHOSE NAME ESCAPES ME AT THE MOMENT...

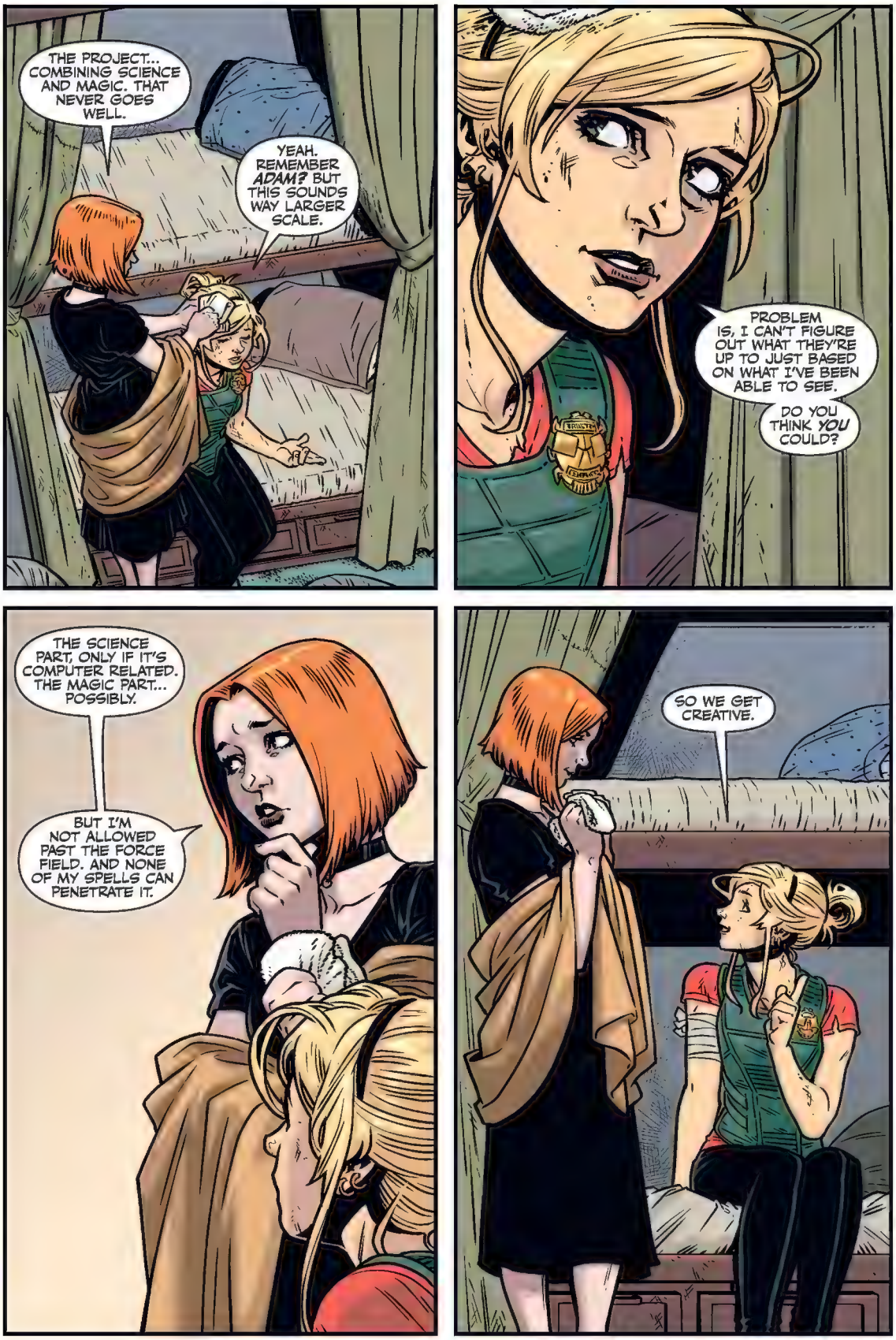
...AND I REALLY LIKE YOU, AND DRAINING THEIR MAGIC DOESN'T MAKE ME WEAKER, IT MAKES ME MORE *ENERGIZED*, AND I HAVE TO CONTROL MYSELF AND--
LOOK, MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST GO, OKAY?
OKAY. I UNDERSTAND.

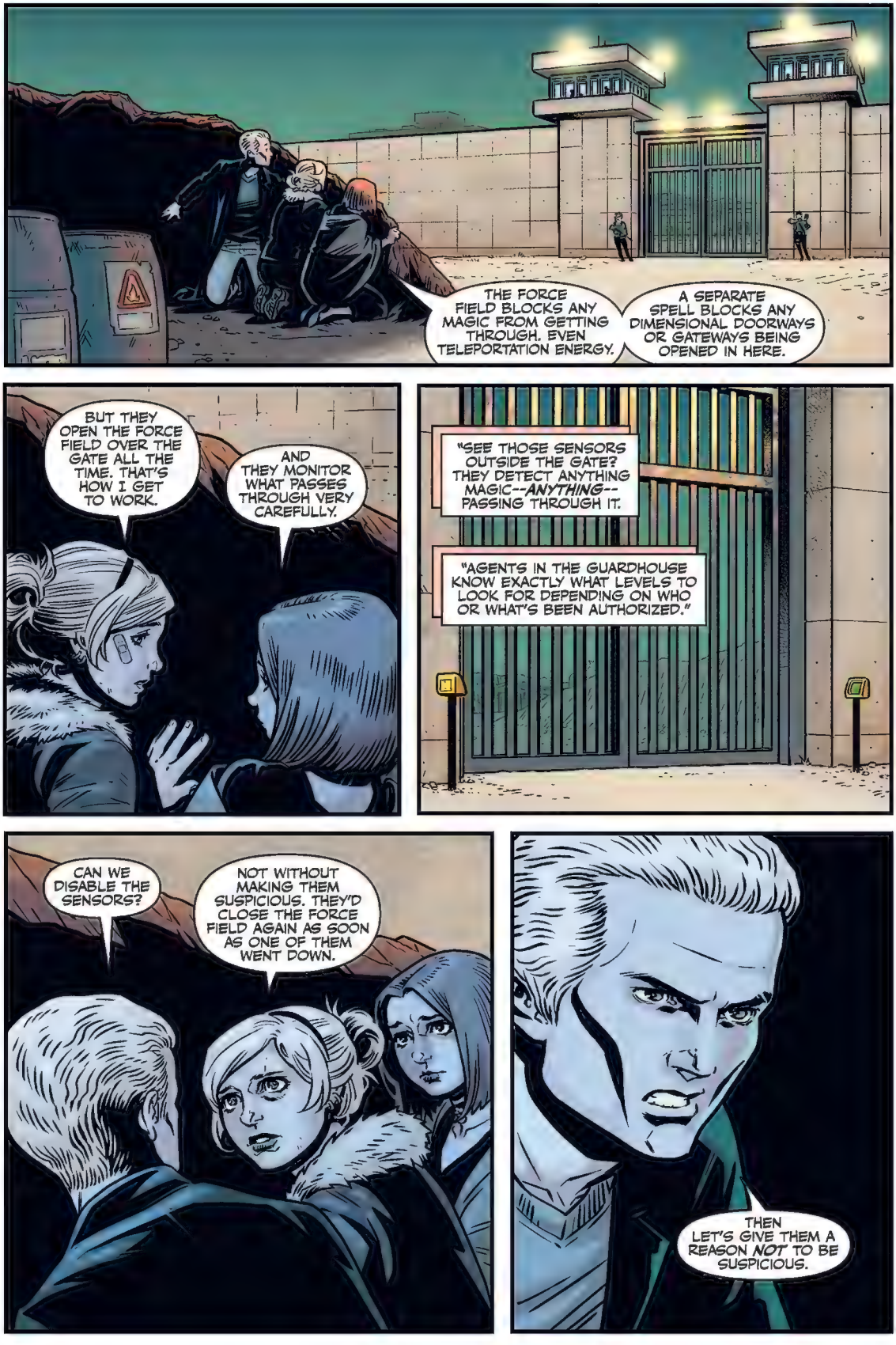
NOK NOK
OH, I DON'T HAVE THE WILLPOWER FOR THIS.


CALLIOPE--

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT.
CAN I USE YOUR... EVERYTHING?

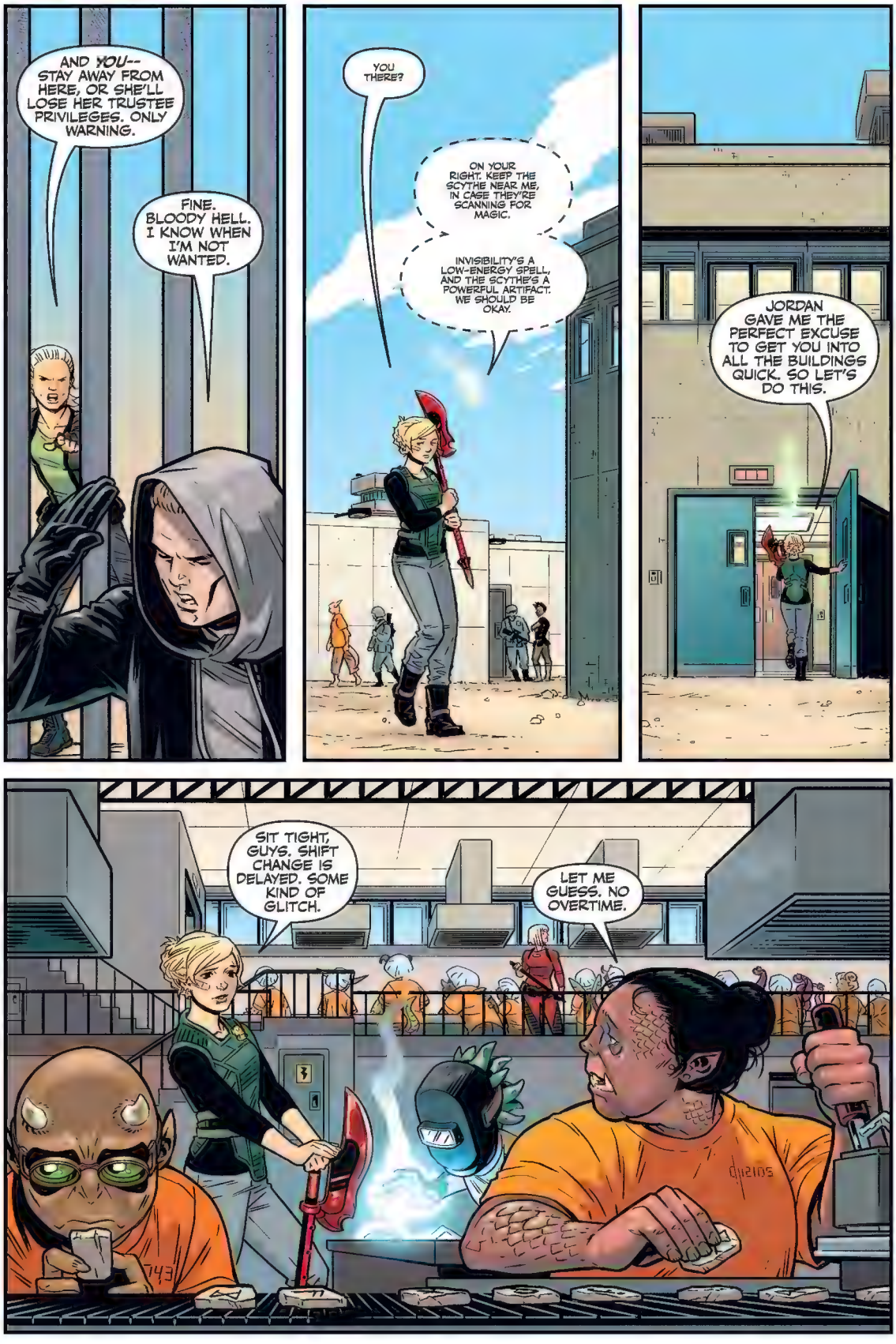

SOON AFTER.
OH MY GODDESS, I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS WAS HAPPENING TO YOU LESS THAN A MINUTE AWAY AND I DIDN'T EVEN--
I'M FINE. I'LL BE OKAY.
YOU ARE NOT FINE. YOU HAVE THREE BROKEN RIBS AND POISON STILL IN YOUR SYSTEM. BUT I'LL HEAL YOU...AND BURN OFF SOME SURPLUS MAGIC IN THE PROCESS.
THANKS, WIL. YOU'RE MY HERO.
MIND IF I CLEAN UP HERE? IF SPIKE SEES ME LIKE THIS HE'LL GO ON A REVENGE SPREE, AND WE CAN'T DRAW ATTENTION--
SIT. YES, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO. AFTER YOU'VE RESTED.
HE MIGHT HEAR ABOUT IT FROM SOMEONE.
I'LL HAVE ONE OF THE GIRLS GO TELL HIM THERE'S BEEN A FIGHT, BUT YOU'RE FINE. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT'S A HUGELY UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE.
OKAY. THANKS.
'CAUSE I ALSO WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT THE OGRE SAID.


THE PROJECT... COMBINING SCIENCE AND MAGIC. THAT NEVER GOES WELL.
YEAH. REMEMBER *ADAM?* BUT THIS SOUNDS WAY LARGER SCALE.
PROBLEM IS, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY'RE UP TO JUST BASED ON WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE.
DO YOU THINK *YOU* COULD?
THE SCIENCE PART, ONLY IF IT'S COMPUTER RELATED. THE MAGIC PART... POSSIBLY.
BUT I'M NOT ALLOWED PAST THE FORCE FIELD. AND NONE OF MY SPELLS CAN PENETRATE IT.
SO WE GET CREATIVE.


THE FORCE FIELD BLOCKS ANY MAGIC FROM GETTING THROUGH. EVEN TELEPORTATION ENERGY.
A SEPARATE SPELL BLOCKS ANY DIMENSIONAL DOORWAYS OR GATEWAYS BEING OPENED IN HERE.
BUT THEY OPEN THE FORCE FIELD OVER THE GATE ALL THE TIME. THAT'S HOW I GET TO WORK.
AND THEY MONITOR WHAT PASSES THROUGH VERY CAREFULLY.
"SEE THOSE SENSORS OUTSIDE THE GATE? THEY DETECT ANYTHING MAGIC--*ANYTHING*-- PASSING THROUGH IT.
"AGENTS IN THE GUARDHOUSE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT LEVELS TO LOOK FOR DEPENDING ON WHO OR WHAT'S BEEN AUTHORIZED."
CAN WE DISABLE THE SENSORS?
NOT WITHOUT MAKING THEM SUSPICIOUS. THEY'D CLOSE THE FORCE FIELD AGAIN AS SOON AS ONE OF THEM WENT DOWN.
THEN LET'S GIVE THEM A REASON *NOT* TO BE SUSPICIOUS.

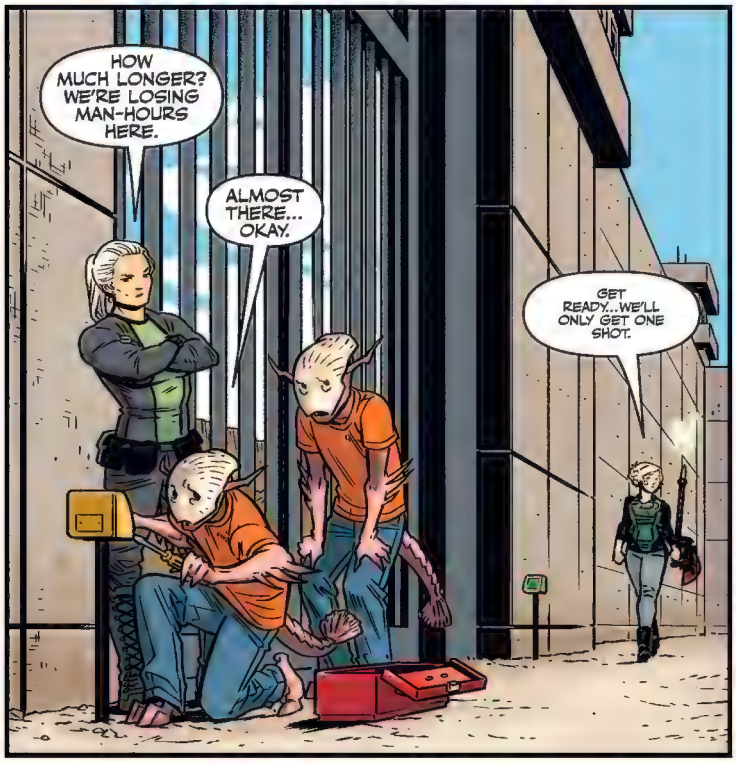
THE NEXT MORNING.
I DON'T LIKE YOU BEING OUTSIDE DURING THE DAY.
WELL I DON'T LIKE YOU GETTING AMBUSHED AND NEARLY KILLED, DO I?
I CAN HANDLE MYSELF. I DON'T NEED A BODYGUARD WHO'LL BURST INTO FLAME IF HIS HOODIE FALLS DOWN.
I'M WALKING YOU TO WORK, ALL RIGHT? WE'RE ALMOST THERE. JUST LEAVE IT.
OPEN THE FORCE FIELD OVER THE GATE.
OKAY, WE'RE HERE. NOW GO HOME. I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT.
CAREFUL NOW...
OI. YOU'RE ONE OF HIS MATES. THE OGRE'S.
HUH?
NO, I--

STAY AWAY FROM HER!
HEY! GOT A SITUATION! CLOSE THE FORCE FIELD!
NOW.
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU? DO YOU WANT ME TO GET FIRED? DO YOU WANT TO LOSE THE EXTRA BLOOD RATIONS?
SUMMERS! GO TO THE WORK STATIONS. TELL EVERYONE TO STAY PUT. SHIFT CHANGE IS DELAYED UNTIL WE CAN FIX YOUR BOYFRIEND'S MESS.


AND YOU-- STAY AWAY FROM HERE, OR SHE'LL LOSE HER TRUSTEE PRIVILEGES. ONLY WARNING.
FINE. BLOODY HELL. I KNOW WHEN I'M NOT WANTED.
YOU THERE?
ON YOUR RIGHT. KEEP THE SCYTHE NEAR ME, IN CASE THEY'RE SCANNING FOR MAGIC.
INVISIBILITY'S A LOW-ENERGY SPELL, AND THE SCYTHE'S A POWERFUL ARTIFACT. WE SHOULD BE OKAY.
JORDAN GAVE ME THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO GET YOU INTO ALL THE BUILDINGS QUICK. SO LET'S DO THIS.
SIT TIGHT, GUYS. SHIFT CHANGE IS DELAYED. SOME KIND OF GLITCH.
LET ME GUESS. NO OVERTIME.

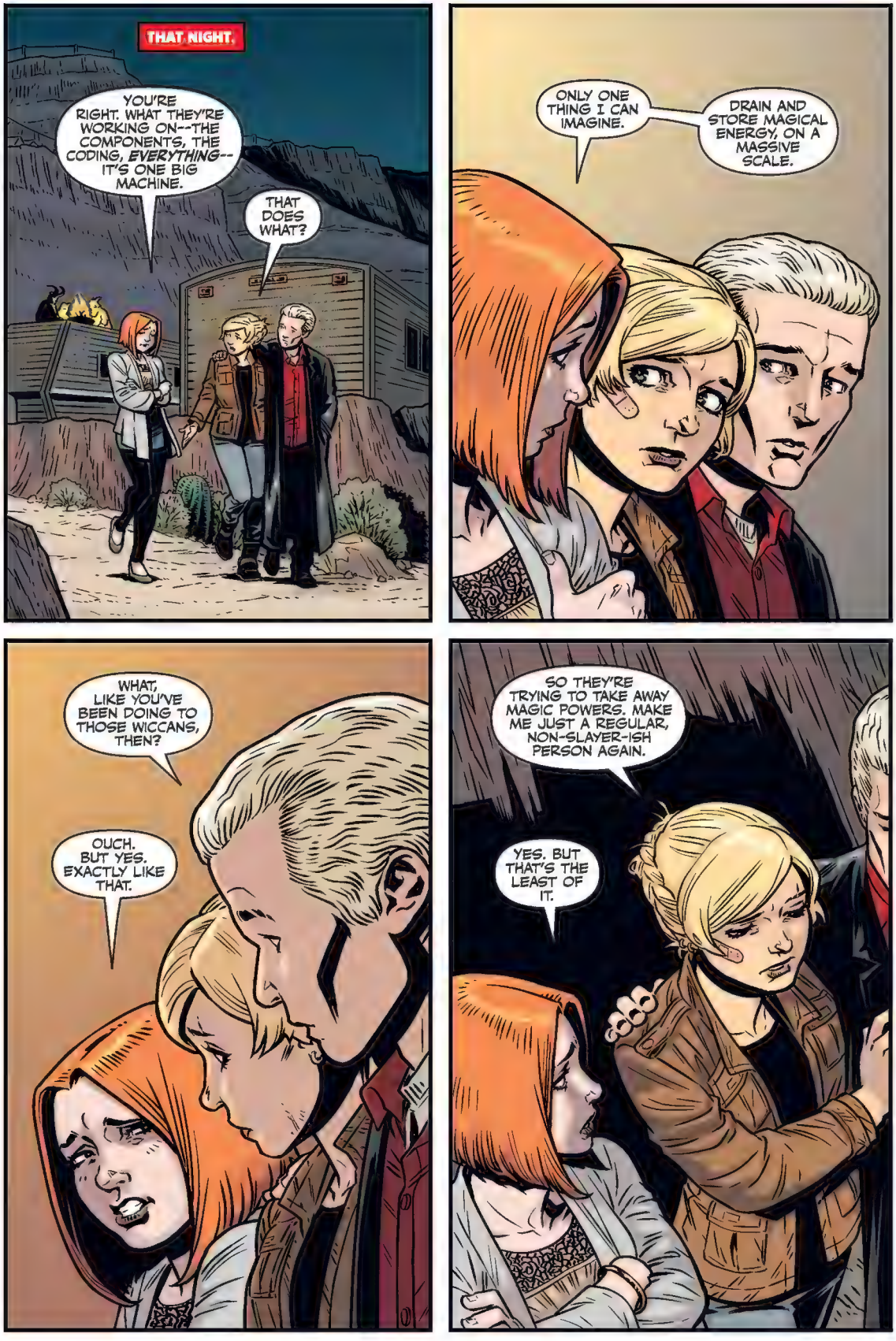
SHORT DELAY.
WE HEARD. SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE ON IT.

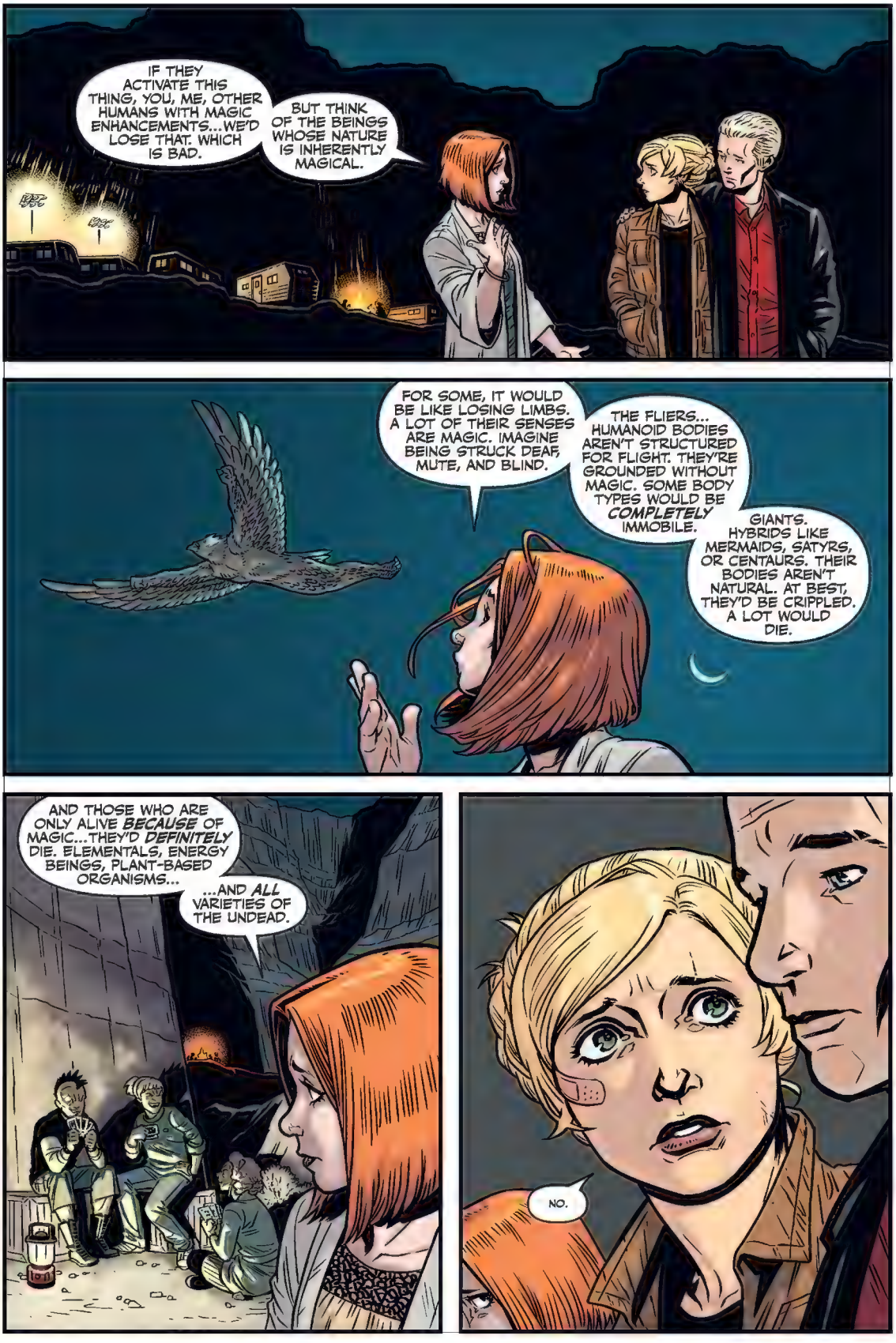
ALMOST THERE, GUYS. SHOULD BE READY FOR THE NEXT SHIFT IN A FEW.
I'VE SEEN ALL I NEED TO. LET'S GET BACK.

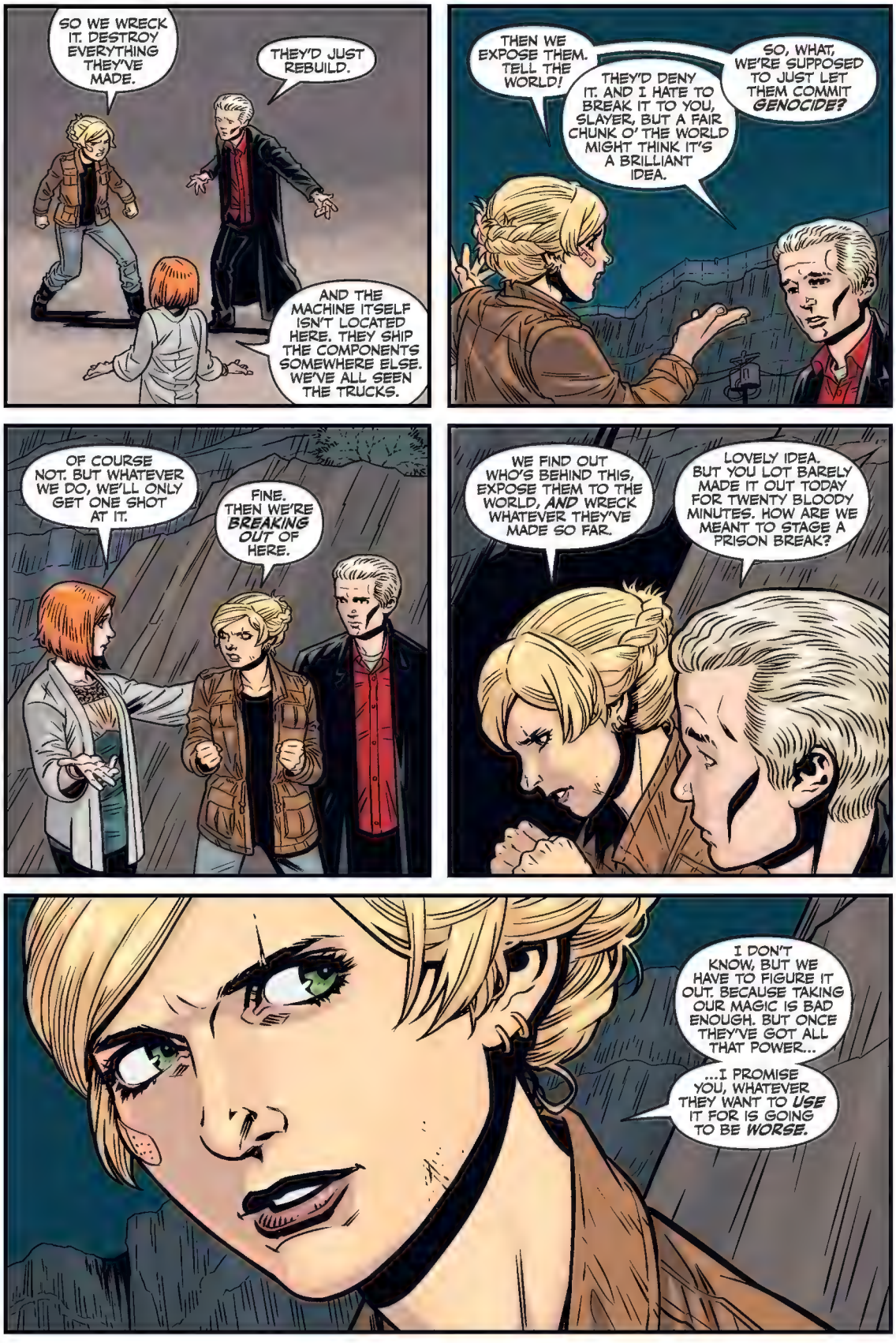

HOW MUCH LONGER? WE'RE LOSING MAN-HOURS HERE.
ALMOST THERE... OKAY.
GET READY...WE'LL ONLY GET ONE SHOT.

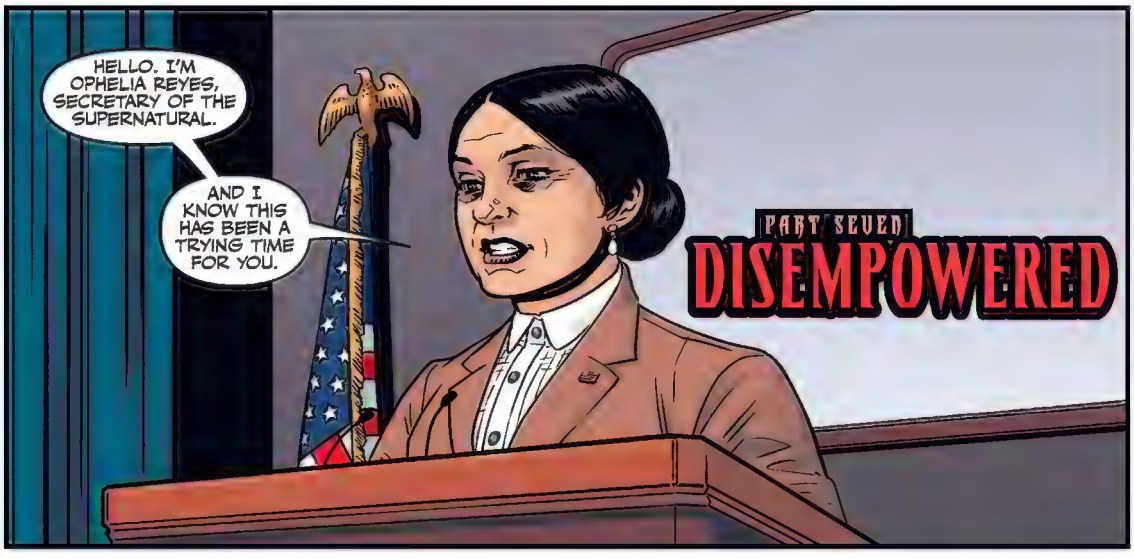
OKAY, OPEN THE FORCE FIELD. STAND BY TO CLOSE IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS.

BREEEP
DAMN IT.
THE HELL WAS THAT?
NEW FUSE COULDN'T HANDLE THE FIRST MULTIWORKER ENERGY READ. I'M RECALIBRATING.
YOU SURE IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT?
NAH. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RUSH ME. IT'S READING FINE NOW...EVERYTHING'S HUNKY-DORY.
OH, GODDESS...

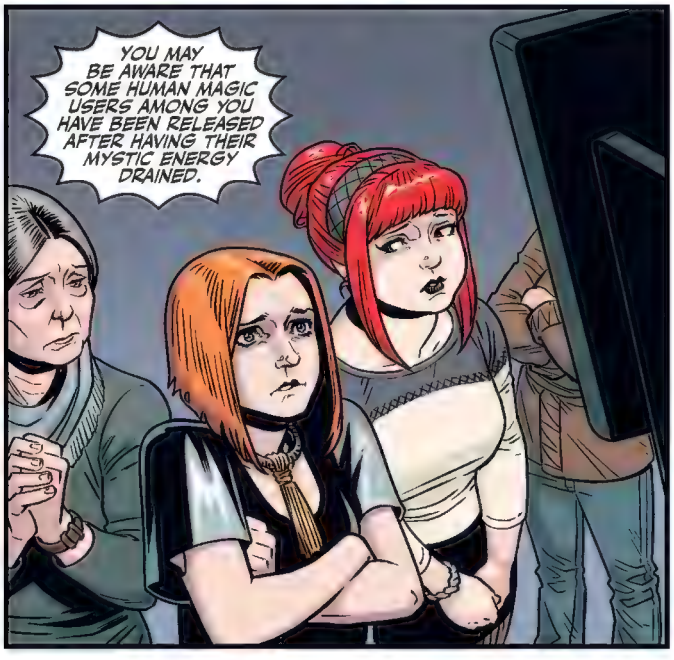

THAT NIGHT.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WHAT THEY'RE WORKING ON--THE COMPONENTS, THE CODING, EVERYTHING-- IT'S ONE BIG MACHINE.
THAT DOES WHAT?
ONLY ONE THING I CAN IMAGINE.
DRAIN AND STORE MAGICAL ENERGY, ON A MASSIVE SCALE.
WHAT, LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DOING TO THOSE WICCANS, THEN?
OUCH. BUT YES. EXACTLY LIKE THAT.
SO THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE AWAY MAGIC POWERS. MAKE ME JUST A REGULAR, NON-SLAYER-ISH PERSON AGAIN.
YES. BUT THAT'S THE LEAST OF IT.

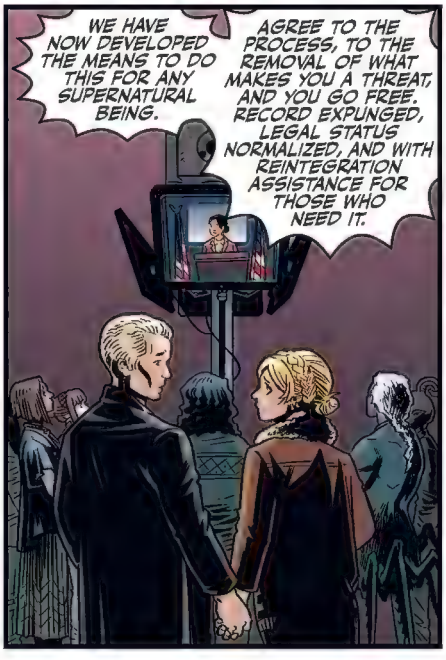

IF THEY ACTIVATE THIS THING, YOU, ME, OTHER HUMANS WITH MAGIC ENHANCEMENTS...WE'D LOSE THAT. WHICH IS BAD.
BUT THINK OF THE BEINGS WHOSE NATURE IS INHERENTLY MAGICAL.
FOR SOME, IT WOULD BE LIKE LOSING LIMBS. A LOT OF THEIR SENSES ARE MAGIC. IMAGINE BEING STRUCK DEAF, MUTE, AND BLIND.
THE FLIERS... HUMANOID BODIES AREN'T STRUCTURED FOR FLIGHT. THEY'RE GROUNDED WITHOUT MAGIC. SOME BODY TYPES WOULD BE *COMPLETELY* IMMOBILE.
GIANTS. HYBRIDS LIKE MERMAIDS, SATYRS, OR CENTAURS. THEIR BODIES AREN'T NATURAL. AT BEST, THEY'D BE CRIPPLED. A LOT WOULD DIE.
AND THOSE WHO ARE ONLY ALIVE *BECAUSE* OF MAGIC...THEY'D *DEFINITELY* DIE. ELEMENTALS, ENERGY BEINGS, PLANT-BASED ORGANISMS...
...AND *ALL* VARIETIES OF THE UNDEAD.
NO.

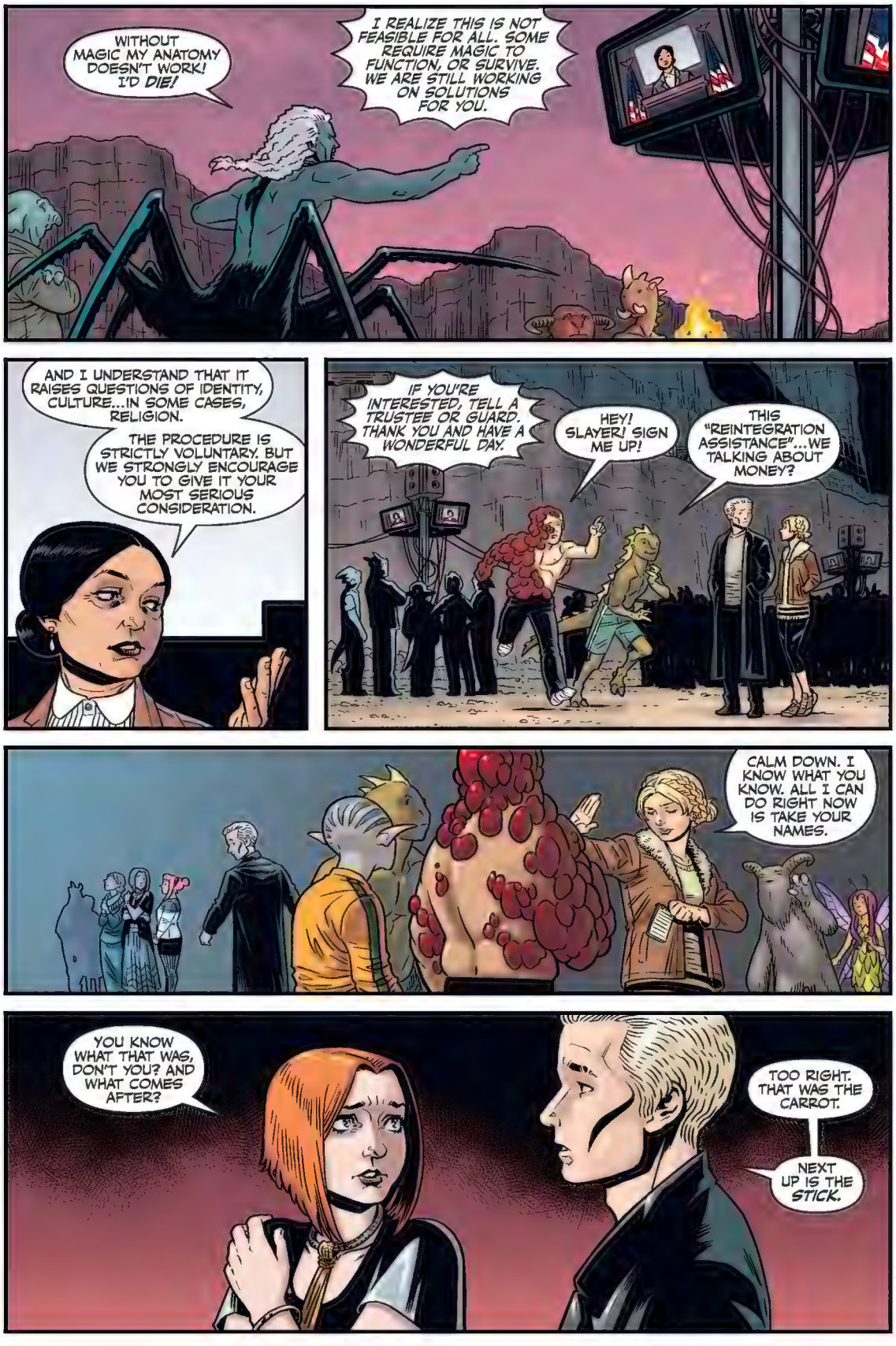

SO WE WRECK IT. DESTROY EVERYTHING THEY'VE MADE.
THEY'D JUST REBUILD.
AND THE MACHINE ITSELF ISN'T LOCATED HERE. THEY SHIP THE COMPONENTS SOMEWHERE ELSE. WE'VE ALL SEEN THE TRUCKS.
THEN WE EXPOSE THEM. TELL THE WORLD!
THEY'D DENY IT. AND I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, SLAYER, BUT A FAIR CHUNK O' THE WORLD MIGHT THINK IT'S A BRILLIANT IDEA.
SO, WHAT, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO JUST LET THEM COMMIT GENOCIDE?
OF COURSE NOT. BUT WHATEVER WE DO, WE'LL ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT IT.
FINE. THEN WE'RE BREAKING OUT OF HERE.
WE FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS, EXPOSE THEM TO THE WORLD, AND WRECK WHATEVER THEY'VE MADE SO FAR.
LOVELY IDEA. BUT YOU LOT BARELY MADE IT OUT TODAY FOR TWENTY BLOODY MINUTES. HOW ARE WE MEANT TO STAGE A PRISON BREAK?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT WE HAVE TO FIGURE IT OUT. BECAUSE TAKING OUR MAGIC IS BAD ENOUGH. BUT ONCE THEY'VE GOT ALL THAT POWER...
...I PROMISE YOU, WHATEVER THEY WANT TO USE IT FOR IS GOING TO BE WORSE.

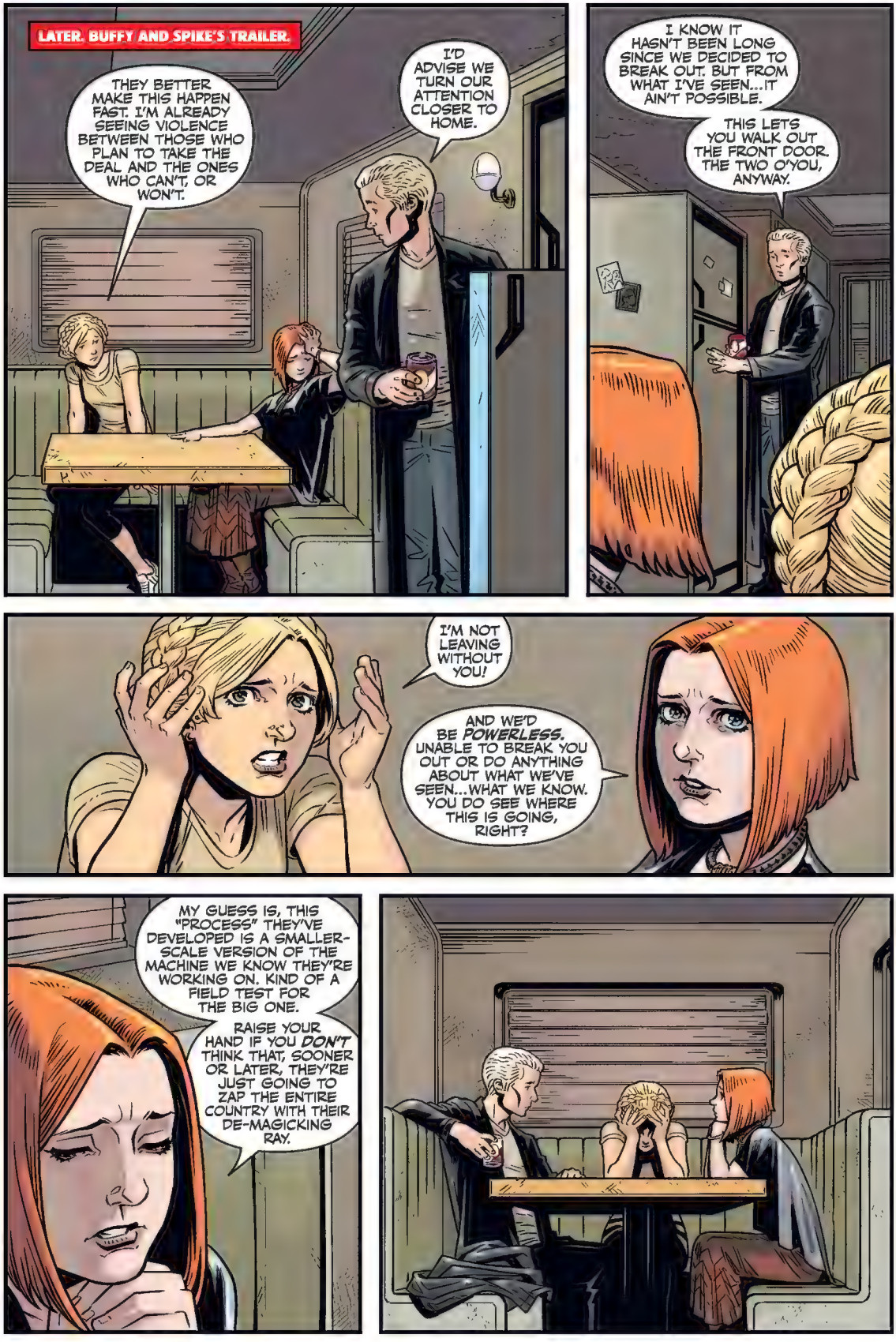

HELLO. I'M OPHELIA REYES, SECRETARY OF THE SUPERNATURAL.
AND I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN A TRYING TIME FOR YOU.
PART SEVEN
DISEMPOWERED

WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT THIS SAFE ZONE IS A TEMPORARY MEASURE, UNTIL WE CAN FIND A PERMANENT SOLUTION THAT ALLOWS SUPERNATURAL BEINGS TO COEXIST WITH NORMAL HUMANS.
I'M PLEASED TO SAY WE NOW HAVE THAT SOLUTION. IT WON'T WORK FOR ALL OF YOU, BUT FOR MANY, IT'S THE TICKET BACK TO A NORMAL LIFE.

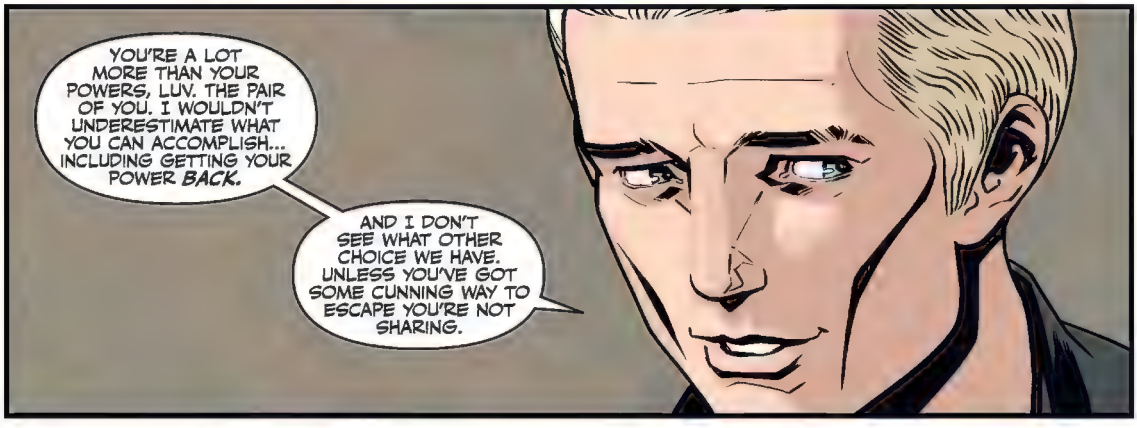

YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT SOME HUMAN MAGIC USERS AMONG YOU HAVE BEEN RELEASED AFTER HAVING THEIR MYSTIC ENERGY DRAINED.

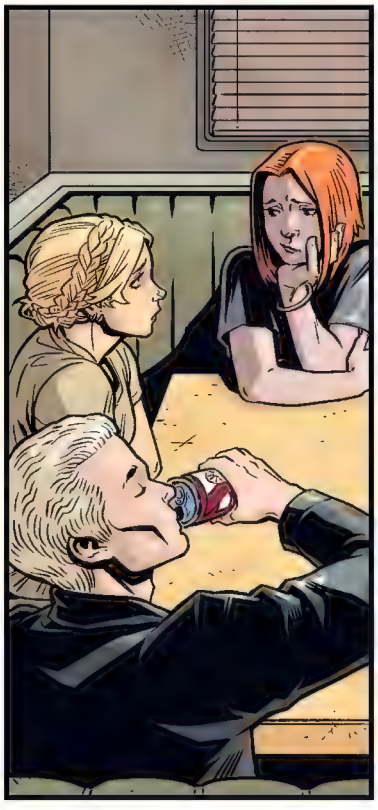

WE HAVE NOW DEVELOPED THE MEANS TO DO THIS FOR ANY SUPERNATURAL BEING.
AGREE TO THE PROCESS, TO THE REMOVAL OF WHAT MAKES YOU A THREAT, AND YOU GO FREE. RECORD EXPUNGED, LEGAL STATUS NORMALIZED, AND WITH REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT.


WITHOUT MAGIC MY ANATOMY DOESN'T WORK! I'D DIE!
I REALIZE THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR ALL. SOME REQUIRE MAGIC TO FUNCTION, OR SURVIVE. WE ARE STILL WORKING ON SOLUTIONS FOR YOU.
AND I UNDERSTAND THAT IT RAISES QUESTIONS OF IDENTITY, CULTURE...IN SOME CASES, RELIGION.
THE PROCEDURE IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY. BUT WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO GIVE IT YOUR MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, TELL A TRUSTEE OR GUARD. THANK YOU AND HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY.
HEY! SLAYER! SIGN ME UP!
THIS "REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE"...WE TALKING ABOUT MONEY?
CALM DOWN. I KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW. ALL I CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS TAKE YOUR NAMES.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WAS, DON'T YOU? AND WHAT COMES AFTER?
TOO RIGHT. THAT WAS THE CARROT.
NEXT UP IS THE STICK.


LATER. BUFFY AND SPIKE'S TRAILER.
THEY BETTER MAKE THIS HAPPEN FAST. I'M ALREADY SEEING VIOLENCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO PLAN TO TAKE THE DEAL AND THE ONES WHO CAN'T, OR WON'T.
I'D ADVISE WE TURN OUR ATTENTION CLOSER TO HOME.
I KNOW IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE WE DECIDED TO BREAK OUT. BUT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN...IT AIN'T POSSIBLE.
THIS LETS YOU WALK OUT THE FRONT DOOR. THE TWO O'YOU, ANYWAY.
I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT YOU!
AND WE'D BE *POWERLESS.* UNABLE TO BREAK YOU OUT OR DO ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT WE'VE SEEN...WHAT WE KNOW. YOU DO SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING, RIGHT?
MY GUESS IS, THIS "PROCESS" THEY'VE DEVELOPED IS A SMALLER-SCALE VERSION OF THE MACHINE WE KNOW THEY'RE WORKING ON. KIND OF A FIELD TEST FOR THE BIG ONE.
RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU *DON'T* THINK THAT, SOONER OR LATER, THEY'RE JUST GOING TO ZAP THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WITH THEIR DE-MAGICKING RAY.

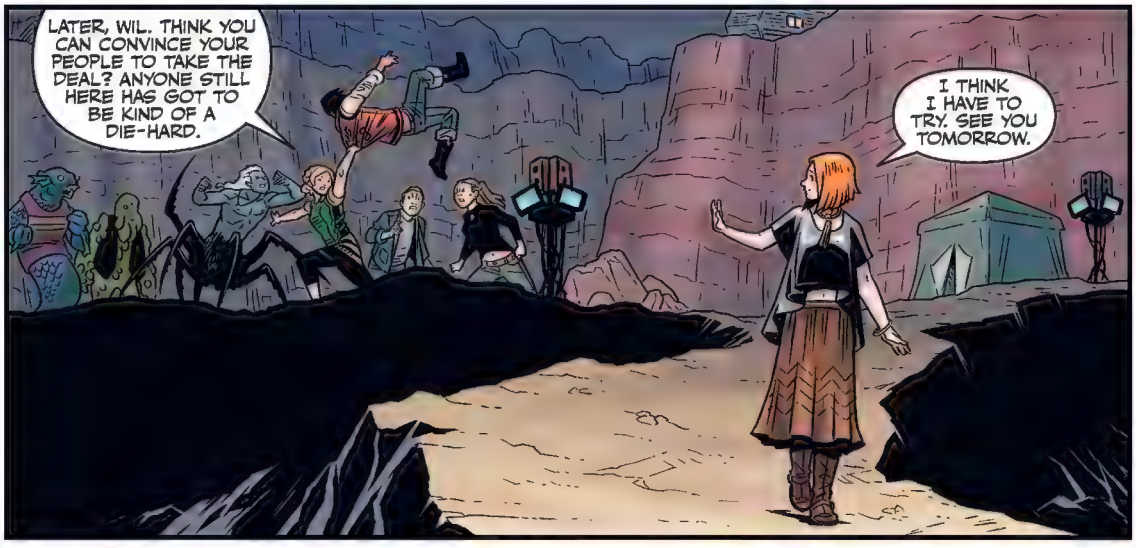
FAIR ENOUGH. MY POINT IS, WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT FROM IN HERE.
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT *OUT THERE,* WITHOUT OUR POWERS!

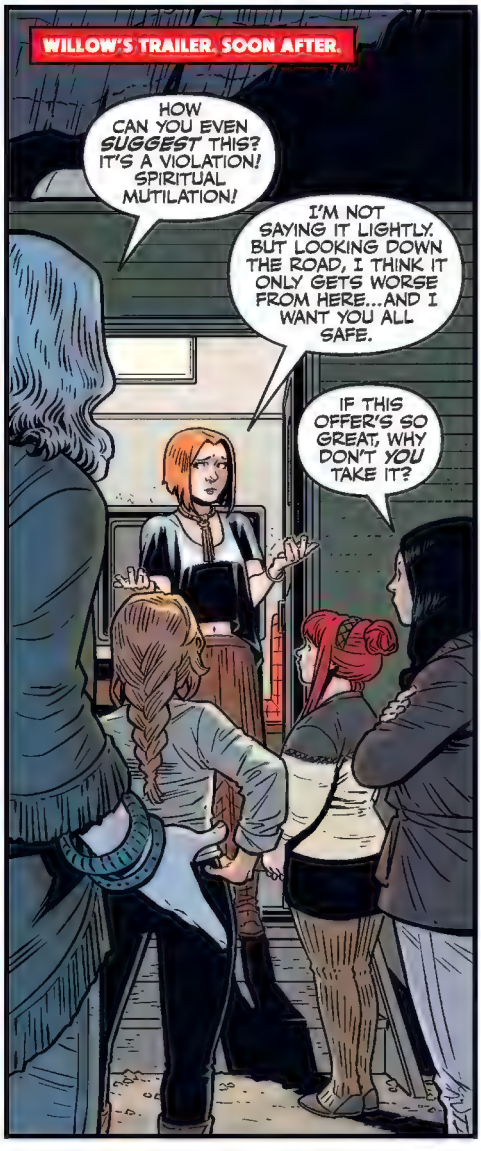

YOU'RE A LOT MORE THAN YOUR POWERS, LUV. THE PAIR OF YOU. I WOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH... INCLUDING GETTING YOUR POWER *BACK.*
AND I DON'T SEE WHAT OTHER CHOICE WE HAVE. UNLESS YOU'VE GOT SOME CUNNING WAY TO ESCAPE YOU'RE NOT SHARING.

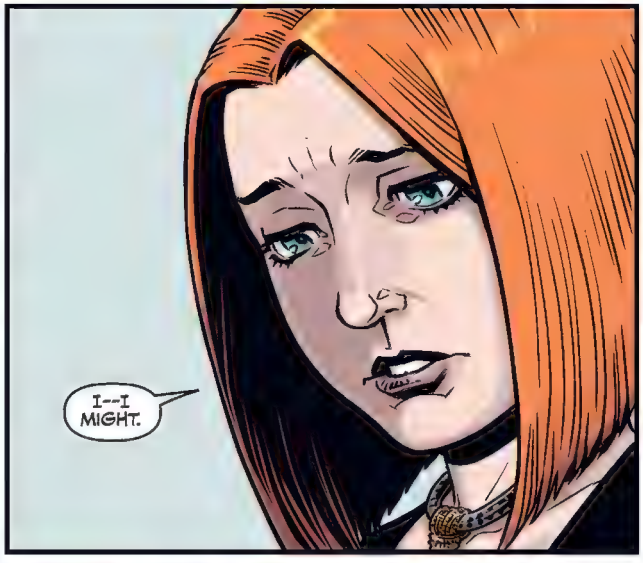


GREAT, ANOTHER FIGHT. I'LL BE BACK.
I'VE GOTTA GO TALK TO THE COVEN, IF YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THIS ON YOUR OWN.

THAT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING I'M SURE OF RIGHT NOW.


LATER, WIL. THINK YOU CAN CONVINCE YOUR PEOPLE TO TAKE THE DEAL? ANYONE STILL HERE HAS GOT TO BE KIND OF A DIE-HARD.
I THINK I HAVE TO TRY. SEE YOU TOMORROW.

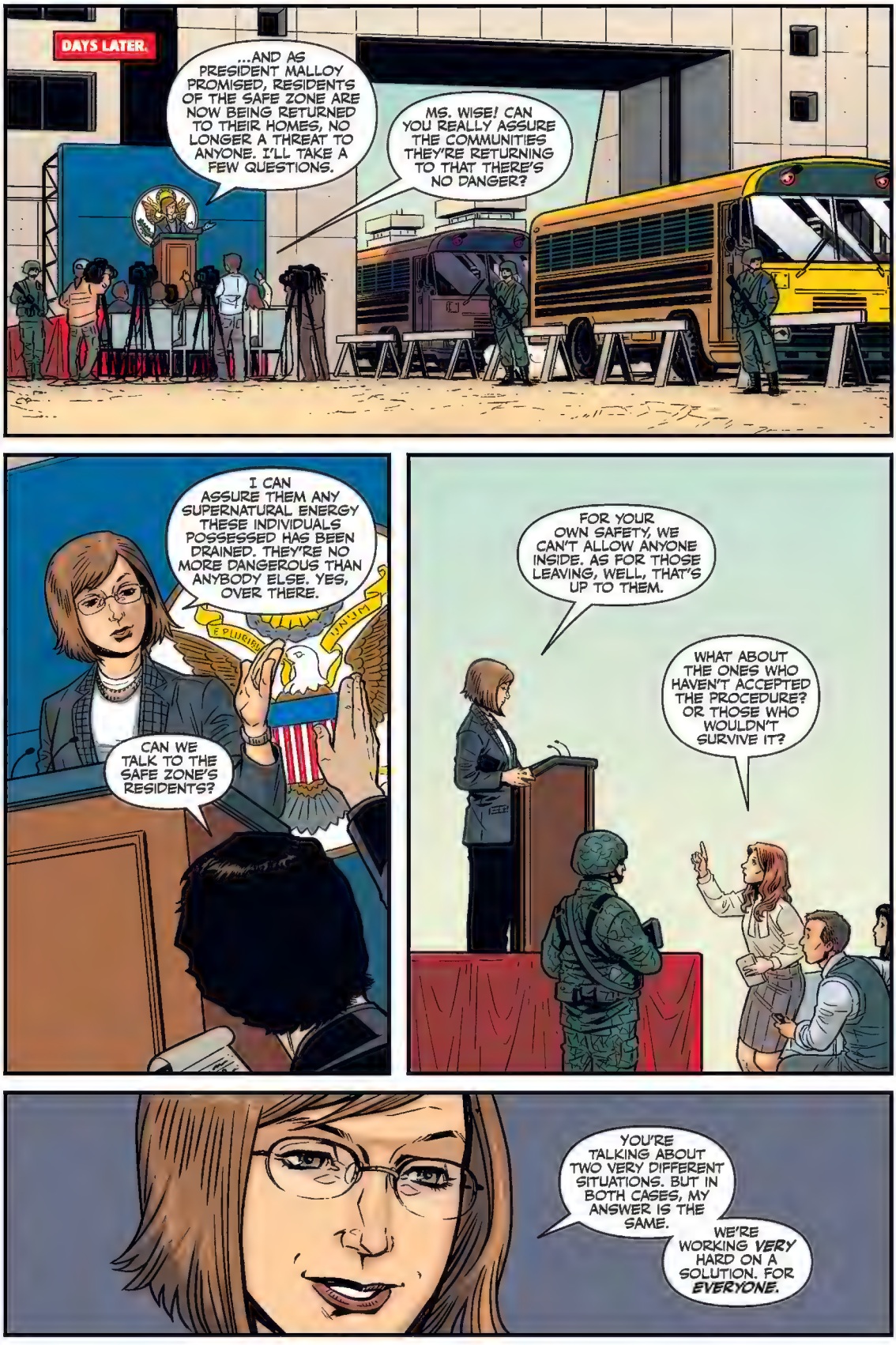

WILLOW'S TRAILER. SOON AFTER.
HOW CAN YOU EVEN *SUGGEST* THIS? IT'S A VIOLATION! SPIRITUAL MUTILATION!
I'M NOT SAYING IT LIGHTLY. BUT LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD, I THINK IT ONLY GETS WORSE FROM HERE...AND I WANT YOU ALL SAFE.
IF THIS OFFER'S SO GREAT, WHY DON'T *YOU* TAKE IT?


I--I MIGHT.

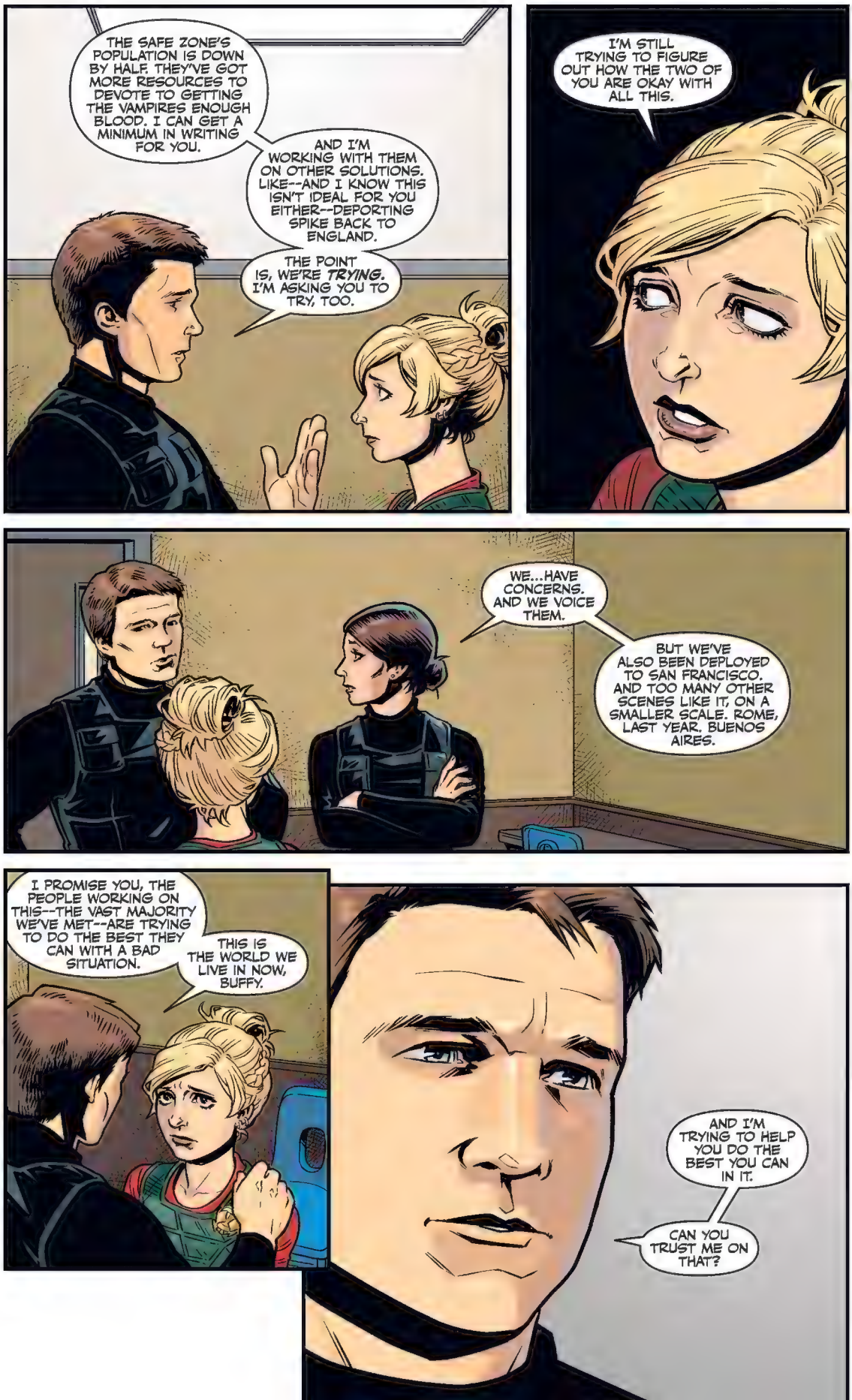
SLEEP ON IT. BUT NOT TOO LONG.

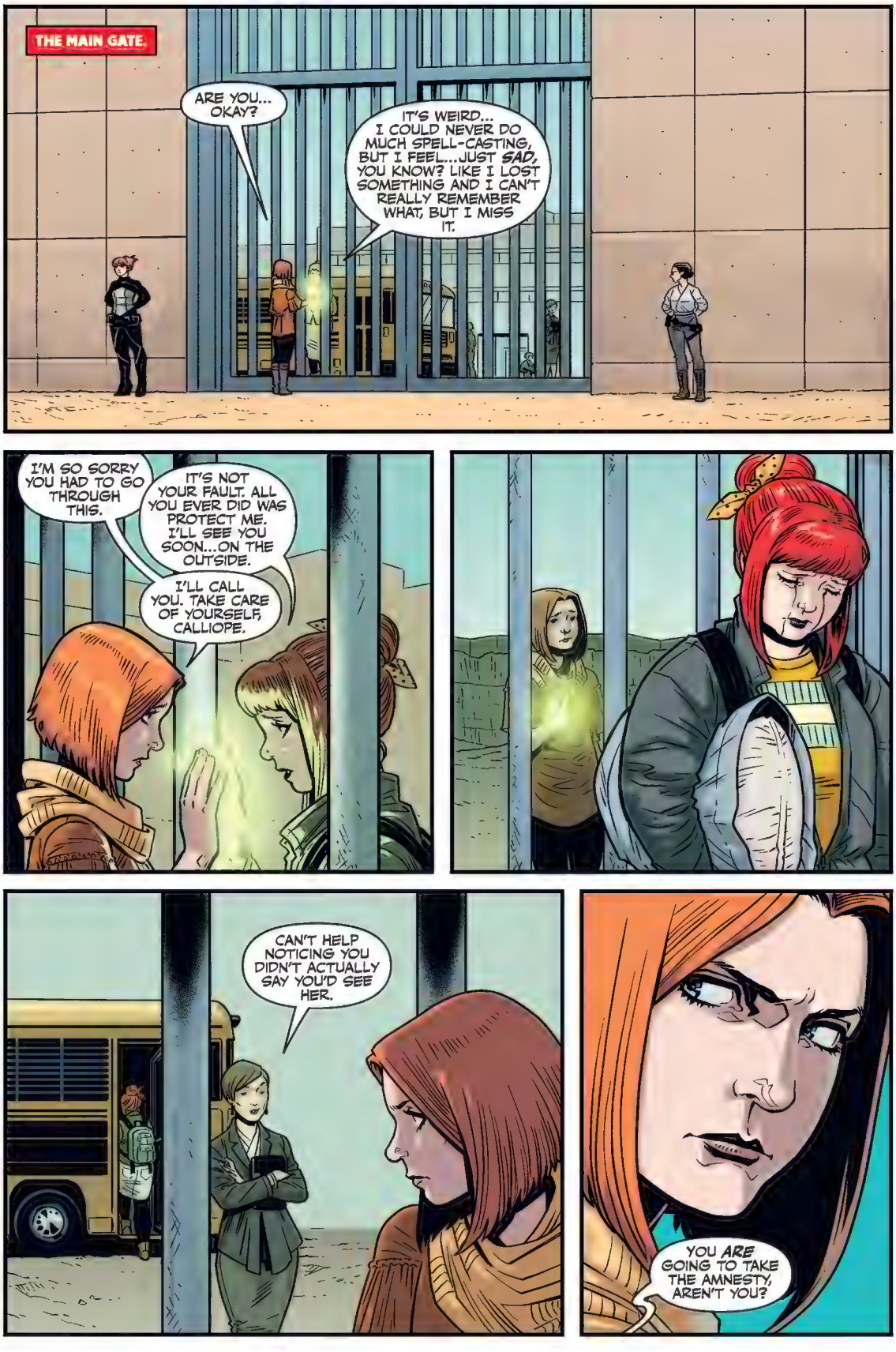
HOW CAN YOU DO THIS? HOW CAN YOU ASK *US* TO DO THIS?
THEY'RE TAKING AWAY WHAT CONNECTS US TO THE NATURAL WORLD. WHAT MAKES US *ALIVE*. AND YOU WANT TO JUST *SUBMIT* TO IT?
CALLIOPE... IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
I CAN'T GO INTO DETAILS. BUT I HAVE A PLAN. KIND OF.
I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME. TO BELIEVE IN ME.
CAN YOU DO THAT?

NO. IT-- IT'S NOT RIGHT.
I'M GOING TO BREAK UP WITH LINDA. I'M JUST FIGURING OUT HOW TO TELL HER.
I'M NOT SURE YOU SHOULD. NOT UNTIL WE GET OUT OF HERE. WHICH I HOPE YOU'RE SAYING YOU WILL.
WHEN WE'RE BACK IN THE NORMAL WORLD...AS NORMAL AS IT GETS THESE DAYS...YOU MIGHT FEEL DIFFERENTLY. WHEN YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE.
OKAY. BUT I PROMISE...
I MIGHT NOT NEED YOU. BUT I'LL STILL WANT YOU.
SO IF WE DO AGREE TO THIS, WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?
T.B.D.
I'LL BE IN MY BUNK.


DAYS LATER.
...AND AS PRESIDENT MALLOY PROMISED, RESIDENTS OF THE SAFE ZONE ARE NOW BEING RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES, NO LONGER A THREAT TO ANYONE. I'LL TAKE A FEW QUESTIONS.
MS. WISE! CAN YOU REALLY ASSURE THE COMMUNITIES THEY'RE RETURNING TO THAT THERE'S NO DANGER?
I CAN ASSURE THEM ANY SUPERNATURAL ENERGY THESE INDIVIDUALS POSSESSED HAS BEEN DRAINED. THEY'RE NO MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANYBODY ELSE. YES, OVER THERE.
CAN WE TALK TO THE SAFE ZONE'S RESIDENTS?
FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, WE CAN'T ALLOW ANYONE INSIDE. AS FOR THOSE LEAVING, WELL, THAT'S UP TO THEM.
WHAT ABOUT THE ONES WHO HAVEN'T ACCEPTED THE PROCEDURE? OR THOSE WHO WOULDN'T SURVIVE IT?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT TWO VERY DIFFERENT SITUATIONS. BUT IN BOTH CASES, MY ANSWER IS THE SAME.
WE'RE WORKING *VERY* HARD ON A SOLUTION. FOR *EVERYONE.*

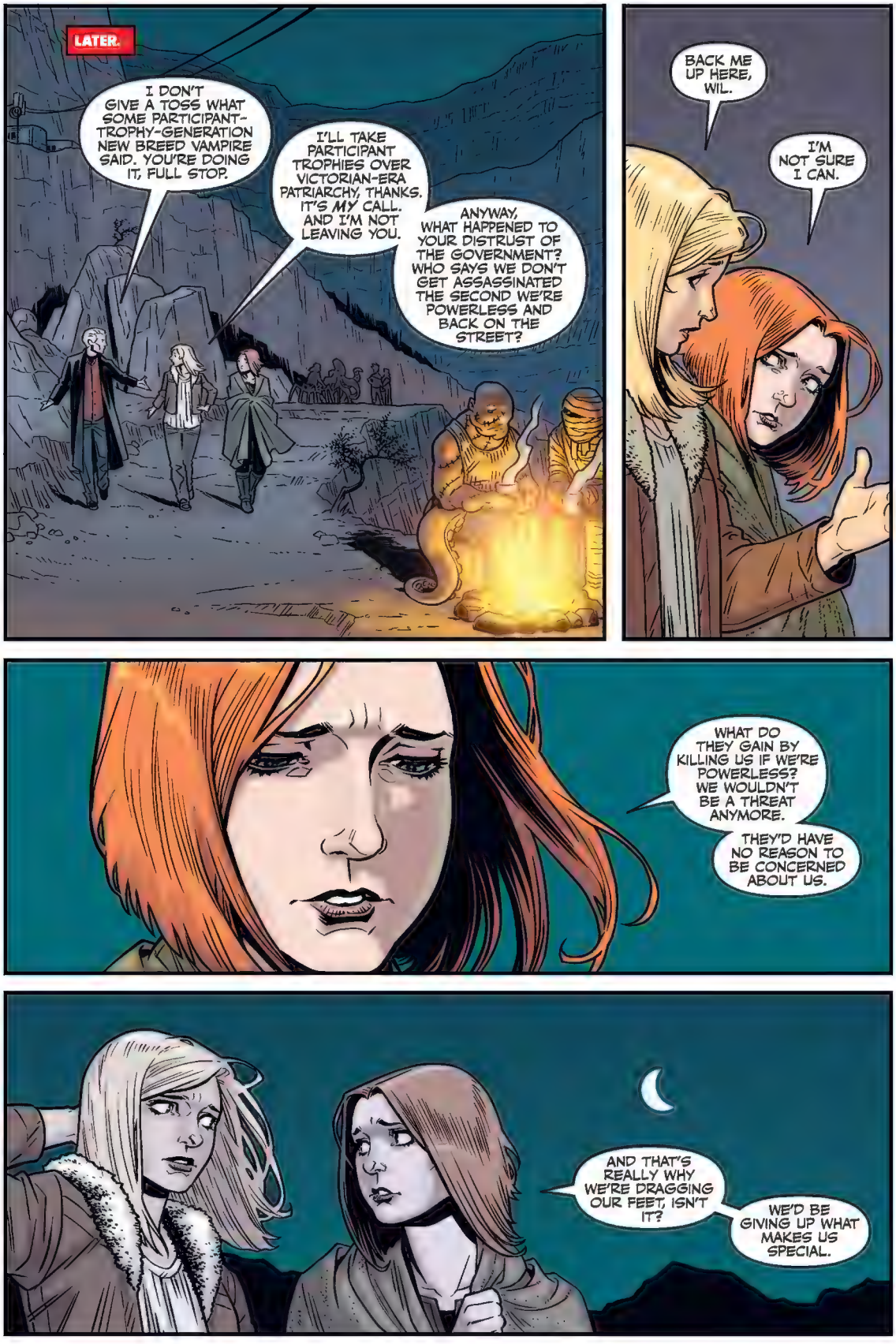
SAFE ZONE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.
THEY BROUGHT YOU HERE JUST TO TWIST MY ARM?
WE WERE IN THE AREA. BUT YEAH. THEY REALLY WANT THIS TO WORK FOR EVERYONE WHO'S ELIGIBLE.
"WORK"? RILEY, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT *TAKING AWAY MY POWER.*
AS YOU MIGHT RECALL, I HAVE A LOT OF ENEMIES. SUPERNATURAL AND OTHERWISE. THEY COME AFTER ME, I'D BE DEFENSELESS.
"NORMAL HUMAN" AND "DEFENSELESS" AREN'T THE SAME THING. YOU CAN TAKE SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES, EXERCISE YOUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS...
OH, I'VE STILL GOT THOSE? MY *FOURTH* AMENDMENT PROTECTIONS AGAINST UNLAWFUL SEARCH AND SEIZURE SEEM KINDA CREAKY RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT, I PAID ATTENTION IN CLASS SOMETIMES!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT.
SPIKE.

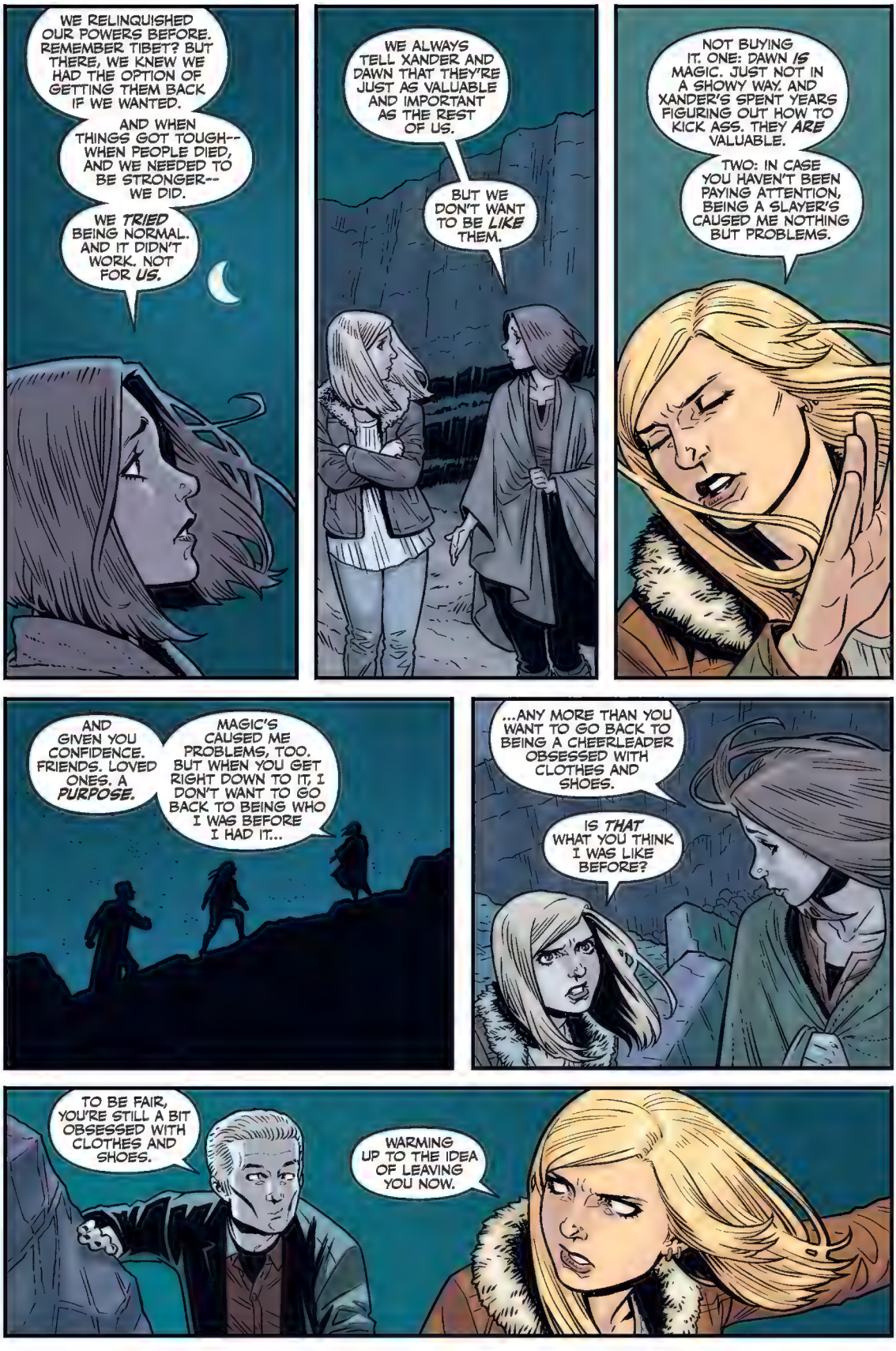

THE SAFE ZONE'S POPULATION IS DOWN BY HALF. THEY'VE GOT MORE RESOURCES TO DEVOTE TO GETTING THE VAMPIRES ENOUGH BLOOD. I CAN GET A MINIMUM IN WRITING FOR YOU.
AND I'M WORKING WITH THEM ON OTHER SOLUTIONS. LIKE--AND I KNOW THIS ISN'T IDEAL FOR YOU EITHER--DEPORTING SPIKE BACK TO ENGLAND.
THE POINT IS, WE'RE *TRYING*. I'M ASKING YOU TO TRY, TOO.
I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW THE TWO OF YOU ARE OKAY WITH ALL THIS.
WE...HAVE CONCERNS. AND WE VOICE THEM.
BUT WE'VE ALSO BEEN DEPLOYED TO SAN FRANCISCO. AND TOO MANY OTHER SCENES LIKE IT, ON A SMALLER SCALE. ROME, LAST YEAR. BUENOS AIRES.
I PROMISE YOU, THE PEOPLE WORKING ON THIS--THE VAST MAJORITY WE'VE MET--ARE TRYING TO DO THE BEST THEY CAN WITH A BAD SITUATION.
THIS IS THE WORLD WE LIVE IN NOW, BUFFY.
AND I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU DO THE BEST YOU CAN IN IT.
CAN YOU TRUST ME ON THAT?


THE MAIN GATE.
ARE YOU... OKAY?
IT'S WEIRD... I COULD NEVER DO MUCH SPELL-CASTING, BUT I FEEL...JUST SAD, YOU KNOW? LIKE I LOST SOMETHING AND I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER WHAT, BUT I MISS IT.
I'M SO SORRY YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH THIS.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. ALL YOU EVER DID WAS PROTECT ME. I'LL SEE YOU SOON...ON THE OUTSIDE.
I'LL CALL YOU. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, CALLIOPE.
CAN'T HELP NOTICING YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY SAY YOU'D SEE HER.
YOU ARE GOING TO TAKE THE AMNESTY, AREN'T YOU?

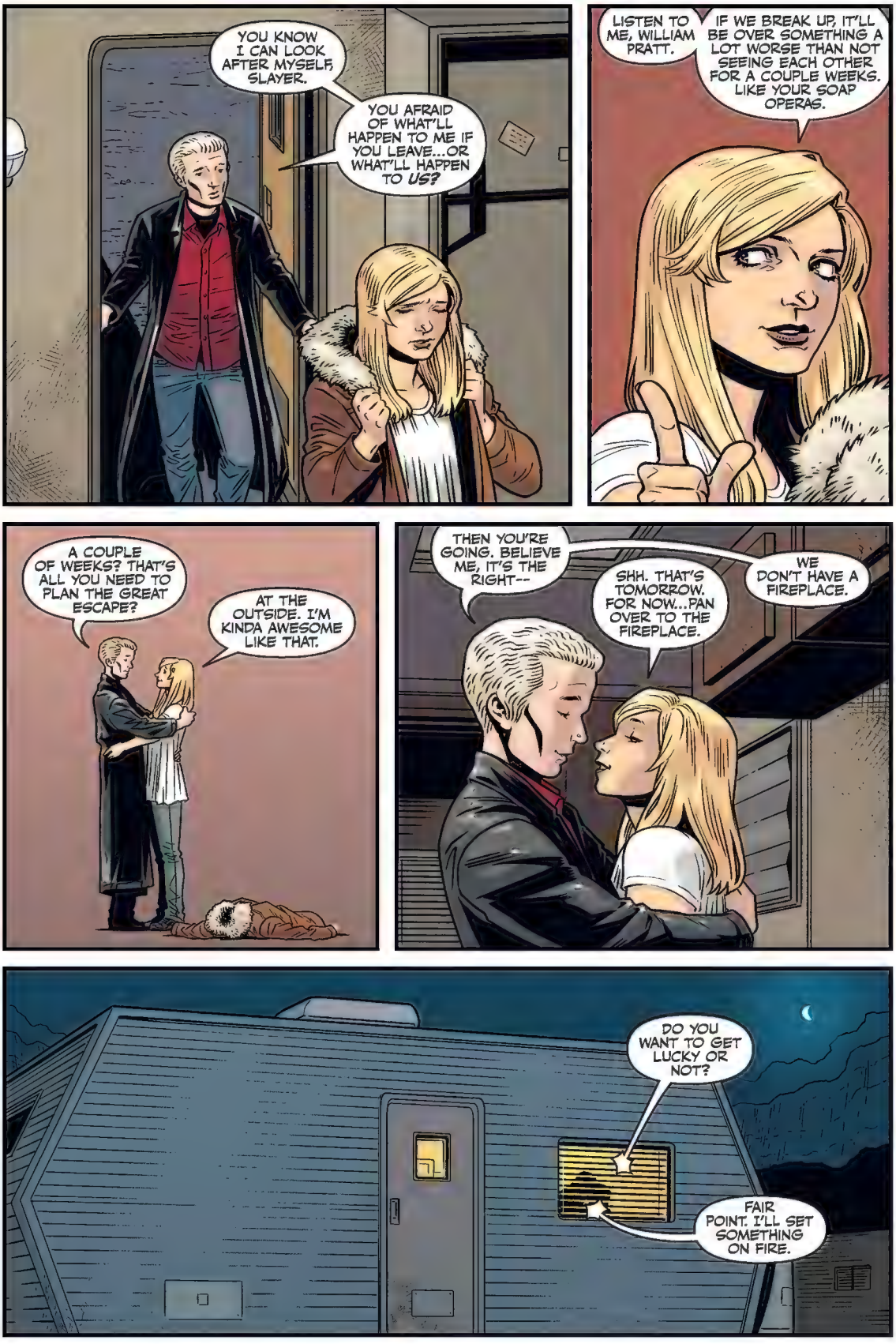
THAT NIGHT.
YOU'RE ABANDONING YOUR OWN KIND!
HOW ARE YOU MY KIND? I'M A WEREWOLF. AND HEY, GUESS WHAT, I DON'T PARTICULARLY *LIKE* BEING A WEREWOLF. THIS IS *GREAT* FOR ME!
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE ALL GONE? THE REST OF US, THE INCONVENIENT ONES, GET DISAPPEARED! *DUSTED!*
IT'S HARD TO TELL 'CAUSE I'VE GOT THE FACE OF A WOLF, BUT THIS IS WHAT I LOOK LIKE WHEN *I DON'T CARE.*
YOU'LL CARE WHEN *I TAKE YOU WITH ME!*
HRAARRR!
HEY! BREAK IT UP!

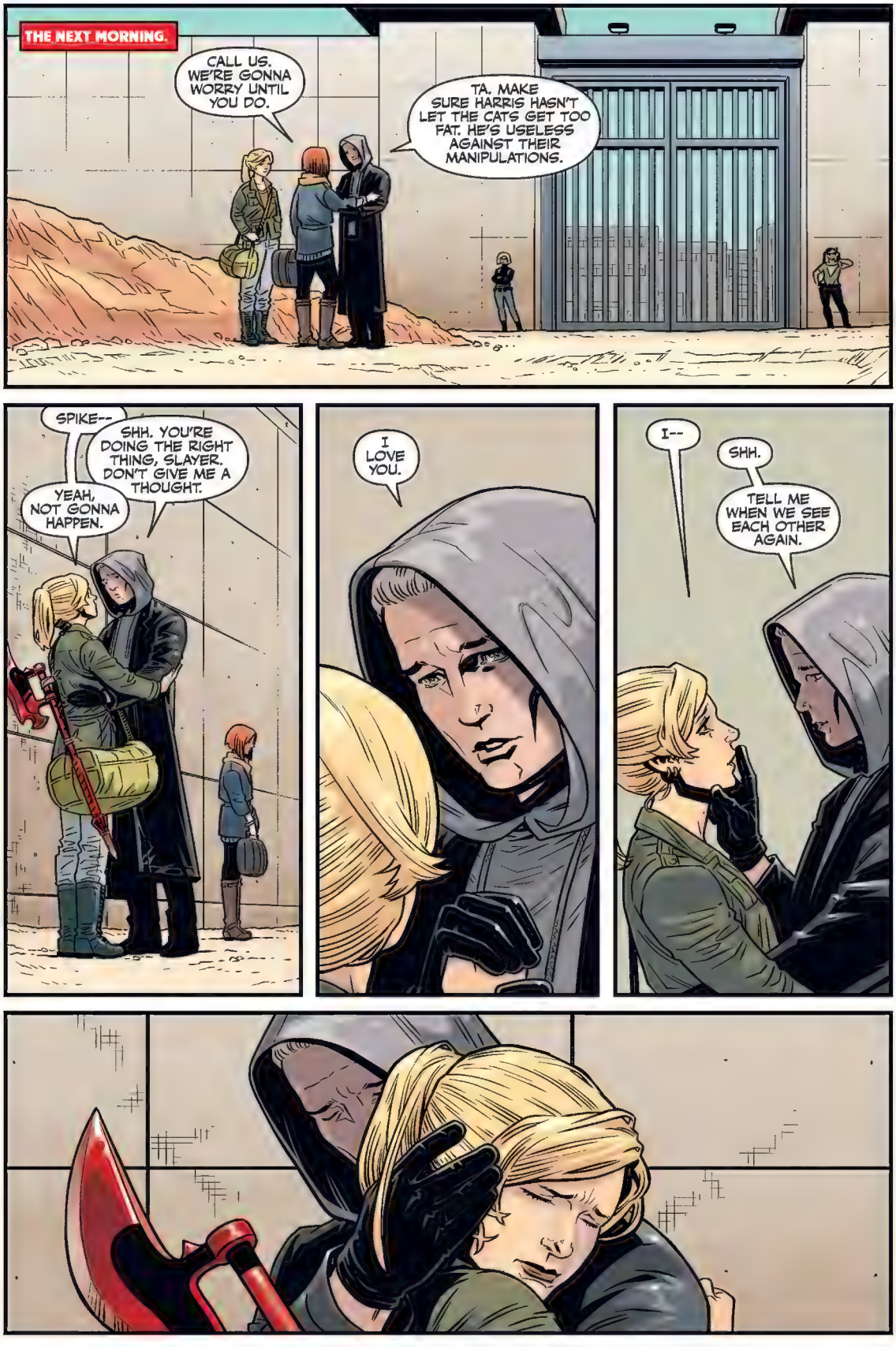
I SAID...
...THAT'S ENOUGH!
ENOUGH FOR YOU. YOU CAN GET NORMALIZED AND BLEND RIGHT IN. LIFE GOES ON.
IT'S GULAGS OR WORSE FOR THE REST OF US. AND THAT INCLUDES YOUR BOYFRIEND, SLAYER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU TELL YOURSELF.
NOT THAT IT'LL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. WHEN IT ALL GOES TO HELL, YOU'RE GONNA SIDE WITH YOUR OWN KIND EVERY TIME.
EVEN WHEN THEY'RE KICKING YOU IN THE TEETH... AND DESTROYING THE ONES YOU SAY YOU LOVE.

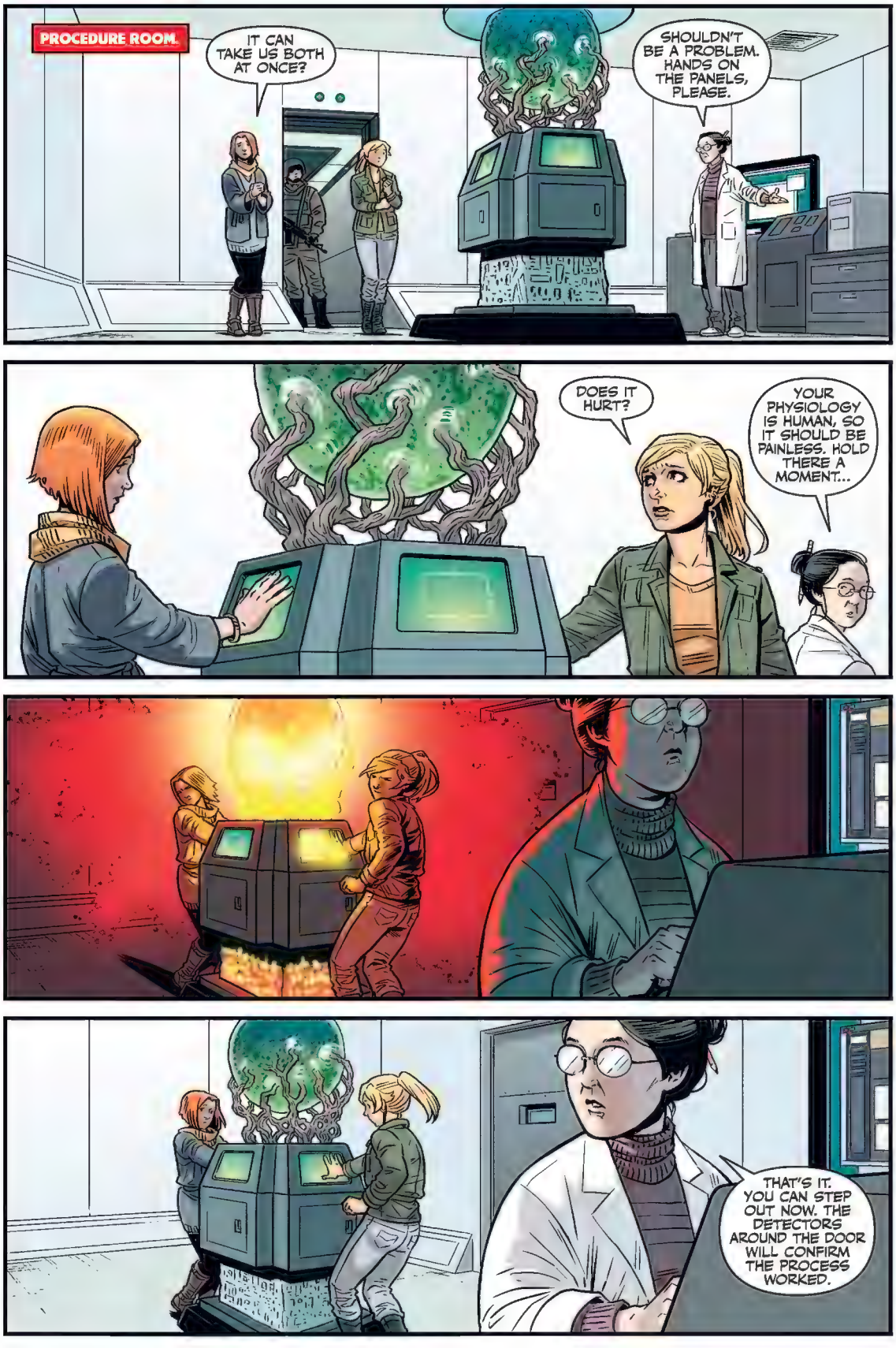

LATER.
I DON'T GIVE A TOSS WHAT SOME PARTICIPANT-TROPHY-GENERATION NEW BREED VAMPIRE SAID. YOU'RE DOING IT, FULL STOP.
I'LL TAKE PARTICIPANT TROPHIES OVER VICTORIAN-ERA PATRIARCHY, THANKS. IT'S MY CALL. AND I'M NOT LEAVING YOU.
ANYWAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR DISTRUST OF THE GOVERNMENT? WHO SAYS WE DON'T GET ASSASSINATED THE SECOND WE'RE POWERLESS AND BACK ON THE STREET?
BACK ME UP HERE, WIL.
I'M NOT SURE I CAN.
WHAT DO THEY GAIN BY KILLING US IF WE'RE POWERLESS? WE WOULDN'T BE A THREAT ANYMORE.
THEY'D HAVE NO REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT US.
AND THAT'S REALLY WHY WE'RE DRAGGING OUR FEET, ISN'T IT?
WE'D BE GIVING UP WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL.

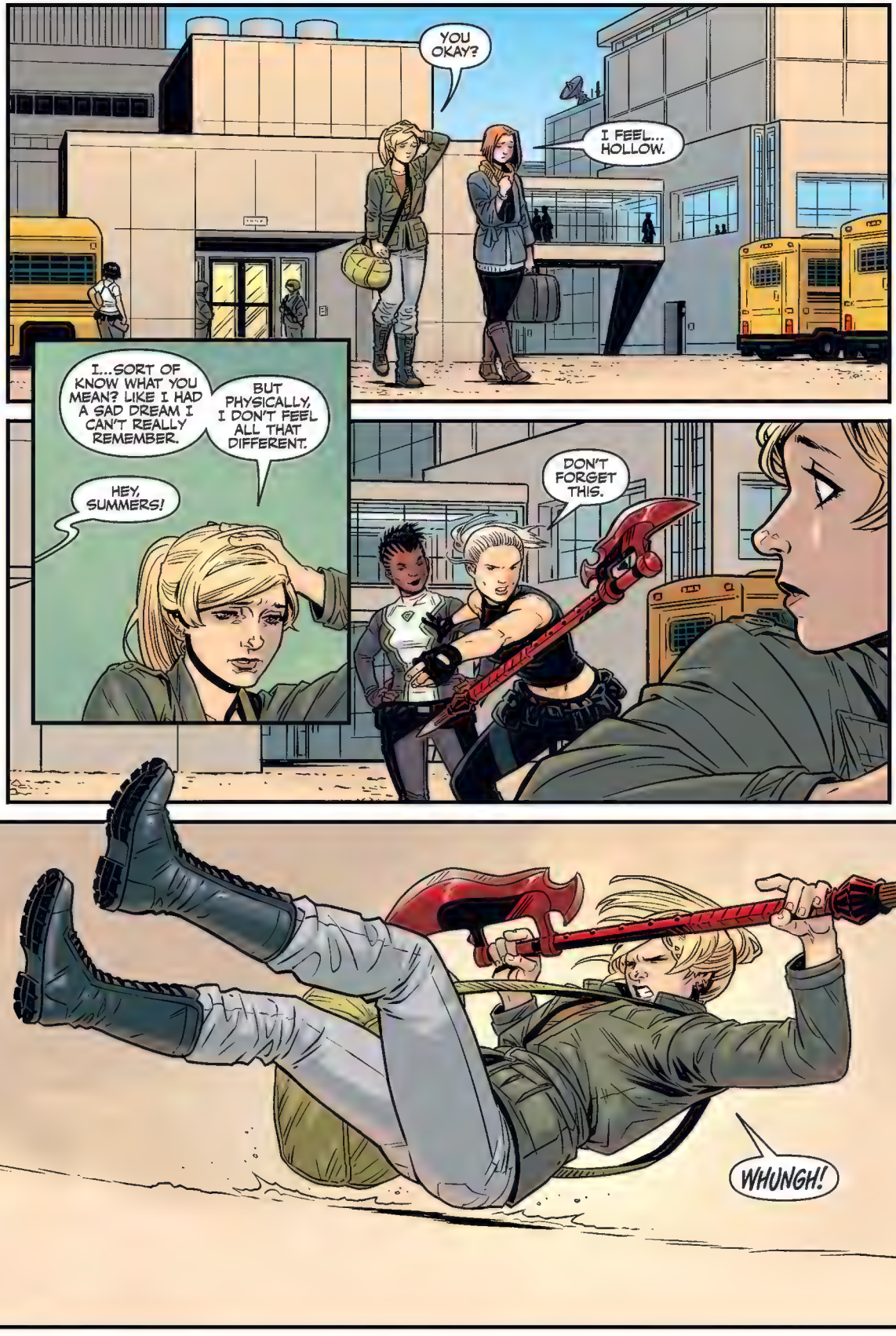

WE RELINQUISHED OUR POWERS BEFORE. REMEMBER TIBET? BUT THERE, WE KNEW WE HAD THE OPTION OF GETTING THEM BACK IF WE WANTED.
AND WHEN THINGS GOT TOUGH-- WHEN PEOPLE DIED, AND WE NEEDED TO BE STRONGER-- WE DID.
WE *TRIED* BEING NORMAL. AND IT DIDN'T WORK. NOT FOR *US.*
WE ALWAYS TELL XANDER AND DAWN THAT THEY'RE JUST AS VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT AS THE REST OF US.
BUT WE DON'T WANT TO BE *LIKE* THEM.
NOT BUYING IT. ONE: DAWN *IS* MAGIC. JUST NOT IN A SHOWY WAY. AND XANDER'S SPENT YEARS FIGURING OUT HOW TO KICK ASS. THEY *ARE* VALUABLE.
TWO: IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION, BEING A SLAYER'S CAUSED ME NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS.
AND GIVEN YOU CONFIDENCE. FRIENDS. LOVED ONES. A *PURPOSE.*
MAGIC'S CAUSED ME PROBLEMS, TOO. BUT WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT, I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO BEING WHO I WAS BEFORE I HAD IT...
...ANY MORE THAN YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO BEING A CHEERLEADER OBSESSED WITH CLOTHES AND SHOES.
IS *THAT* WHAT YOU THINK I WAS LIKE BEFORE?
TO BE FAIR, YOU'RE STILL A BIT OBSESSED WITH CLOTHES AND SHOES.
WARMING UP TO THE IDEA OF LEAVING YOU NOW.

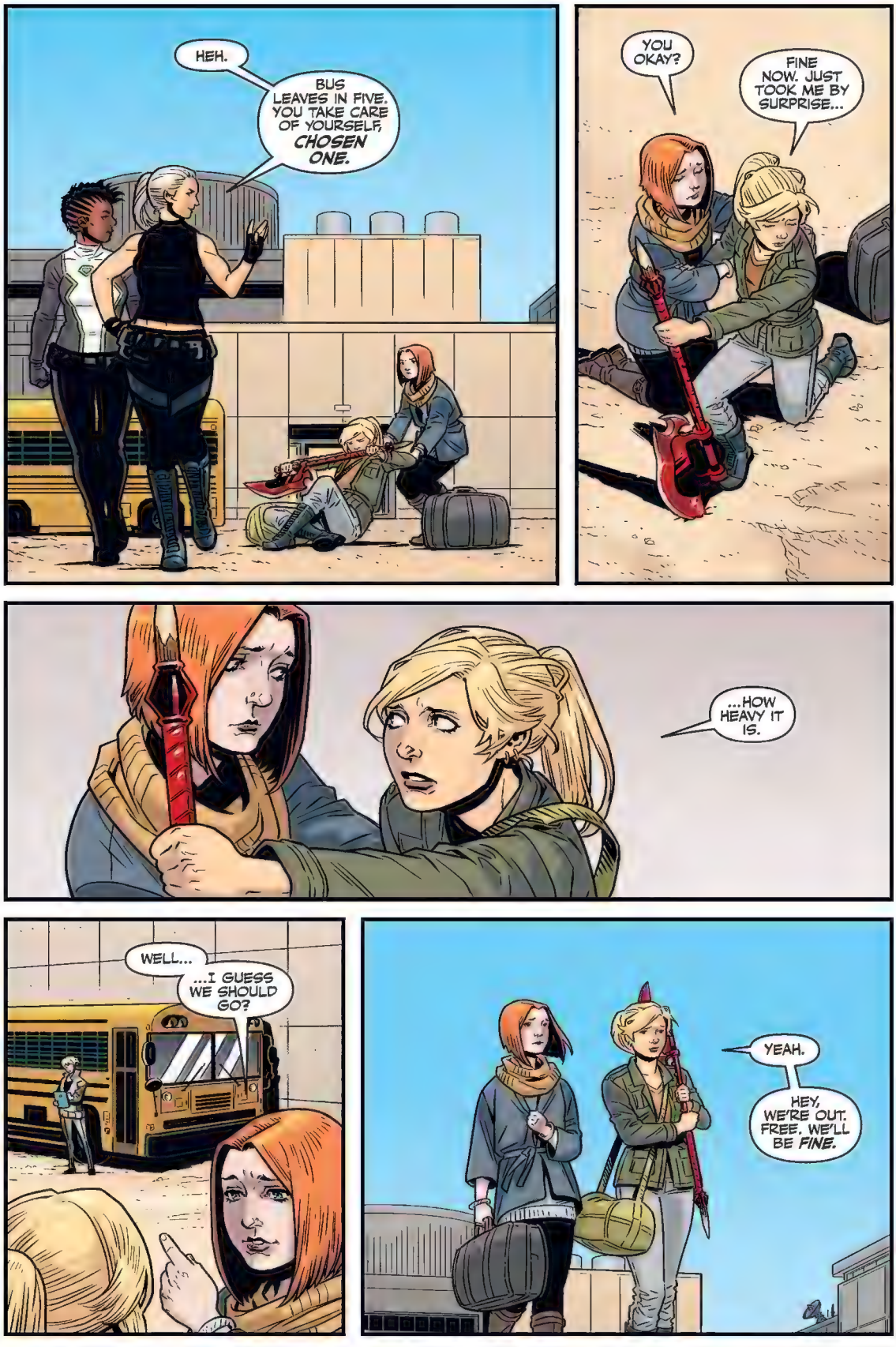
LOOK, I'M NOT TRYING TO START A FIGHT. I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO. I'M JUST FACING FACTS.
EVEN WITH ALL OUR POWER, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FROM IN HERE. BUT IF WE GIVE IT UP, WE AT LEAST HAVE A SHOT.
WE JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE IN OURSELVES. WHO WE ARE WITHOUT ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES.
WHICH I FULLY ADMIT IS SCARY AS HELL.
I'M TAKING THE DEAL. TOMORROW. IF YOU DON'T, MAYBE I CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET YOU BOTH OUT.
WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, I'LL UNDERSTAND.


YOU KNOW I CAN LOOK AFTER MYSELF, SLAYER.
YOU AFRAID OF WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME IF YOU LEAVE...OR WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO *US?*
LISTEN TO ME, WILLIAM PRATT.
IF WE BREAK UP, IT'LL BE OVER SOMETHING A LOT WORSE THAN NOT SEEING EACH OTHER FOR A COUPLE WEEKS. LIKE YOUR SOAP OPERAS.
A COUPLE OF WEEKS? THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN THE GREAT ESCAPE?
AT THE OUTSIDE. I'M KINDA AWESOME LIKE THAT.
THEN YOU'RE GOING. BELIEVE ME, IT'S THE RIGHT--
SHH. THAT'S TOMORROW. FOR NOW...PAN OVER TO THE FIREPLACE.
WE DON'T HAVE A FIREPLACE.
DO YOU WANT TO GET LUCKY OR NOT?
FAIR POINT. I'LL SET SOMETHING ON FIRE.


THE NEXT MORNING.
CALL US. WE'RE GONNA WORRY UNTIL YOU DO.
TA. MAKE SURE HARRIS HASN'T LET THE CATS GET TOO FAT. HE'S USELESS AGAINST THEIR MANIPULATIONS.
SPIKE--
SHH. YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, SLAYER. DON'T GIVE ME A THOUGHT.
YEAH, NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
I LOVE YOU.
I--
SHH.
TELL ME WHEN WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.


PROCEDURE ROOM.
IT CAN TAKE US BOTH AT ONCE?
SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. HANDS ON THE PANELS, PLEASE.
DOES IT HURT?
YOUR PHYSIOLOGY IS HUMAN, SO IT SHOULD BE PAINLESS. HOLD THERE A MOMENT...
THAT'S IT. YOU CAN STEP OUT NOW. THE DETECTORS AROUND THE DOOR WILL CONFIRM THE PROCESS WORKED.


YOU OKAY?
I FEEL... HOLLOW.
I...SORT OF KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN? LIKE I HAD A SAD DREAM I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER.
BUT PHYSICALLY, I DON'T FEEL ALL THAT DIFFERENT.
HEY, SUMMERS!
DON'T FORGET THIS.
WHUNGH!

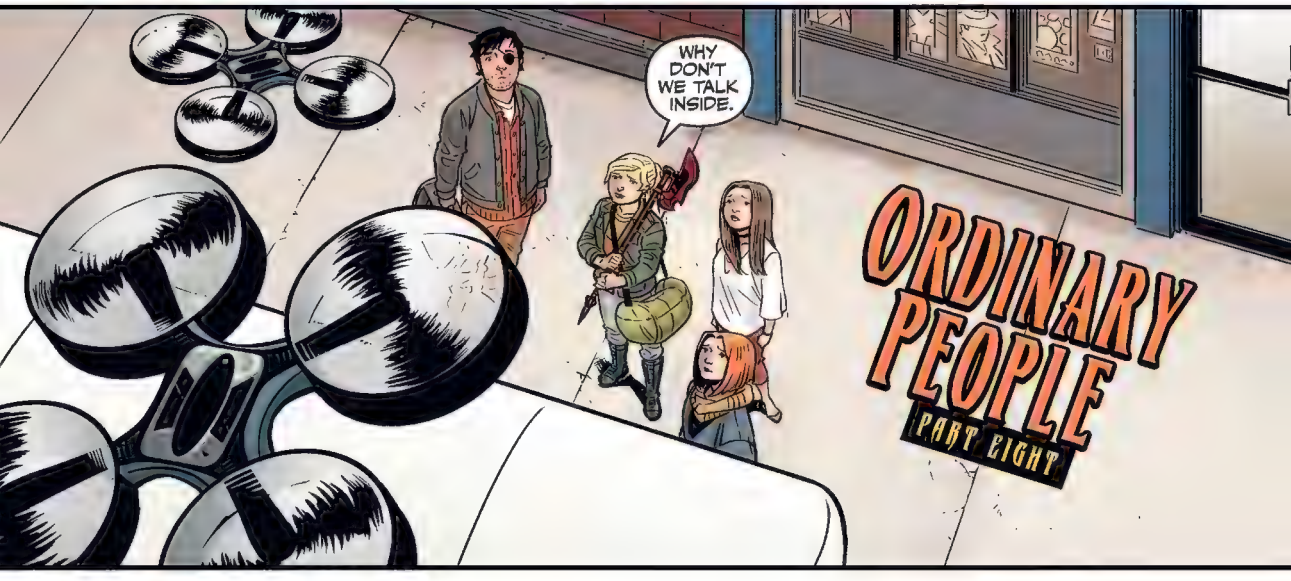

HEH.
BUS LEAVES IN FIVE. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, CHOSEN ONE.
YOU OKAY?
FINE NOW. JUST TOOK ME BY SURPRISE...
...HOW HEAVY IT IS.
WELL...
...I GUESS WE SHOULD GO?
YEAH.
HEY, WE'RE OUT. FREE. WE'LL BE FINE.

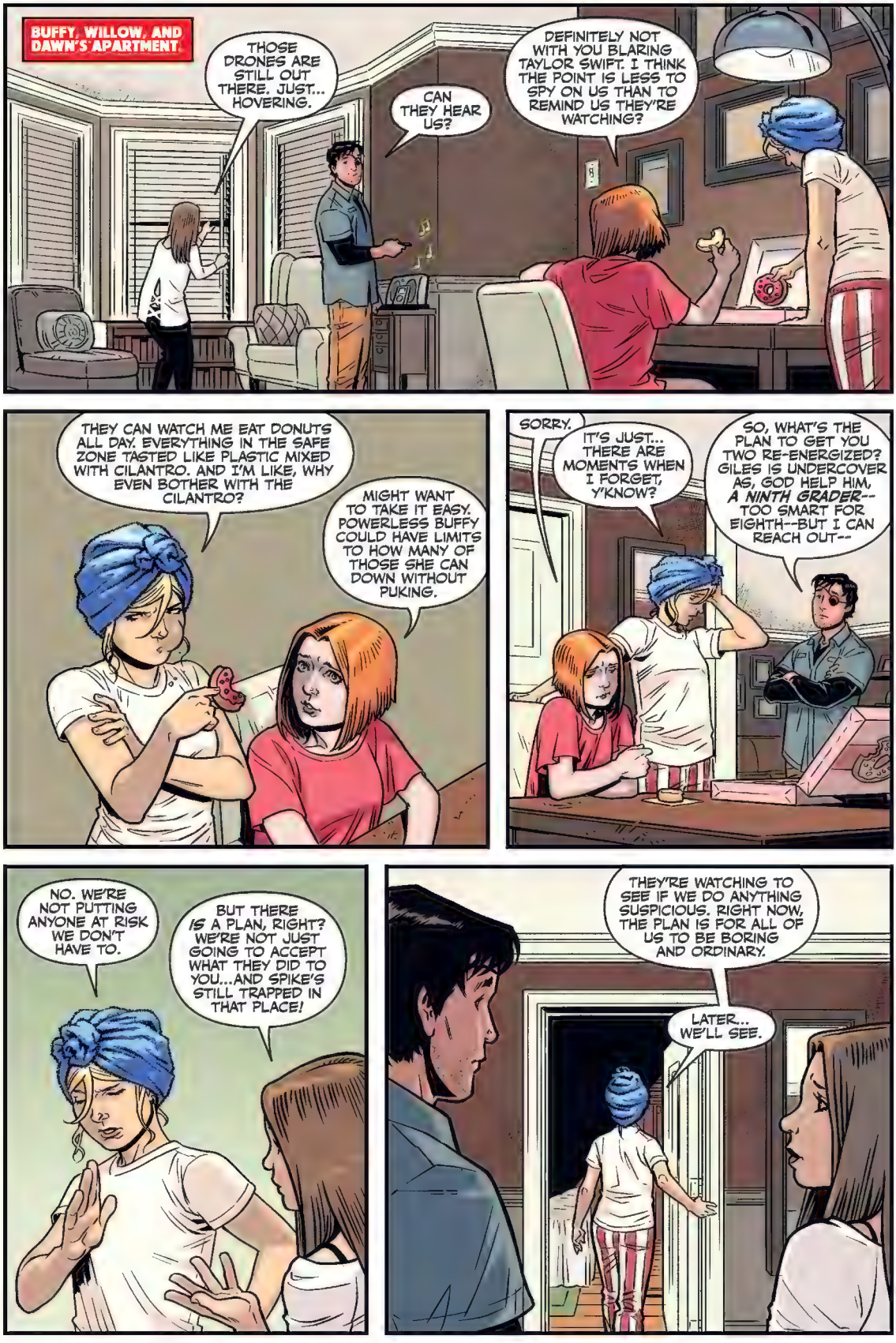
WE'LL ALL BE JUST FINE.

SAN FRANCISCO.
DAWNIE!
YOU'RE BACK, YOU'RE REALLY BACK!
SO? DO WE LOOK DIFFERENT?

PERSONALLY, I'M DISAPPOINTED. I WAS EXPECTING SOME BADASS PRISON TATS. TEARDROP, SPIDER WEB, GOTHIC LETTERING...OR HAS LOCKUP LIED TO ME?
WE PASSED ON THE TATS.

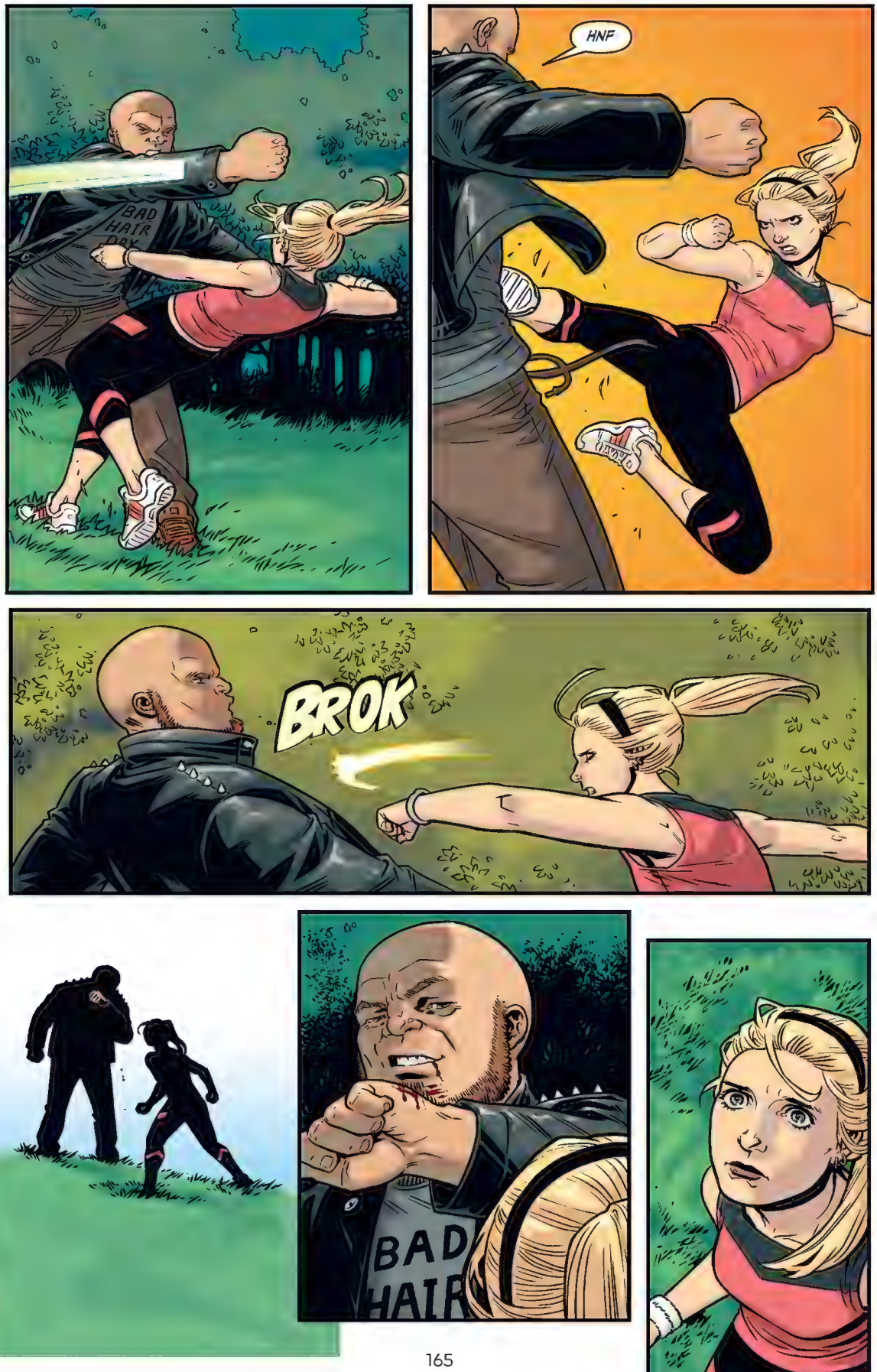
BUT-- NNF--THE PLACE DID LEAVE A MARK.
WOW. THEY REALLY DID DRAIN YOUR POWERS. IS THAT, LIKE, PERMANENT, OR--


WHY DON'T WE TALK INSIDE.
ORDINARY PEOPLE
PART EIGHT


BUFFY, WILLOW, AND DAWN'S APARTMENT
THOSE DRONES ARE STILL OUT THERE. JUST... HOVERING.
CAN THEY HEAR US?
DEFINITELY NOT WITH YOU BLARING TAYLOR SWIFT. I THINK THE POINT IS LESS TO SPY ON US THAN TO REMIND US THEY'RE WATCHING?
THEY CAN WATCH ME EAT DONUTS ALL DAY. EVERYTHING IN THE SAFE ZONE TASTED LIKE PLASTIC MIXED WITH CILANTRO. AND I'M LIKE, WHY EVEN BOTHER WITH THE CILANTRO?
MIGHT WANT TO TAKE IT EASY. POWERLESS BUFFY COULD HAVE LIMITS TO HOW MANY OF THOSE SHE CAN DOWN WITHOUT PUKING.
SORRY.
IT'S JUST... THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN I FORGET, Y'KNOW?
SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN TO GET YOU TWO RE-ENERGIZED? GILES IS UNDERCOVER AS, GOD HELP HIM, A NINTH GRADER-- TOO SMART FOR EIGHTH--BUT I CAN REACH OUT--
NO. WE'RE NOT PUTTING ANYONE AT RISK WE DON'T HAVE TO.
BUT THERE IS A PLAN, RIGHT? WE'RE NOT JUST GOING TO ACCEPT WHAT THEY DID TO YOU...AND SPIKE'S STILL TRAPPED IN THAT PLACE!
THEY'RE WATCHING TO SEE IF WE DO ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS. RIGHT NOW, THE PLAN IS FOR ALL OF US TO BE BORING AND ORDINARY.
LATER... WE'LL SEE.

A FEW DAYS LATER.
PLEASE, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHAT? I'M JUST ASKING LEGIT QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR, Y'KNOW, FAITH. I HEARD YOU GUYS ARE INTO THAT SEX MAGIC.
I'M NOT A WICCAN ANYMORE. I ONLY WENT TO A FEW MEETINGS.
BAD HAIR DAY
OH YEAH? THEN WHY'D THE COPS TAKE YOU IN? EVERYONE AROUND HERE KNOWS.
YOU OUGHT TO BE NICER TO NORMAL PEOPLE. OR SOMEBODY MIGHT SEE SOMETHING AND SAY SOMETHING, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HEY.
DO WE NEED TO GO OVER WHAT "NO" MEANS? 'CAUSE I PROMISE YOU WON'T LIKE MY LESSON PLAN.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT, RONDA ROUSEY?
I MEAN, NOW THAT YOU'RE JUST A GIRL.
BAD HAIR DAY

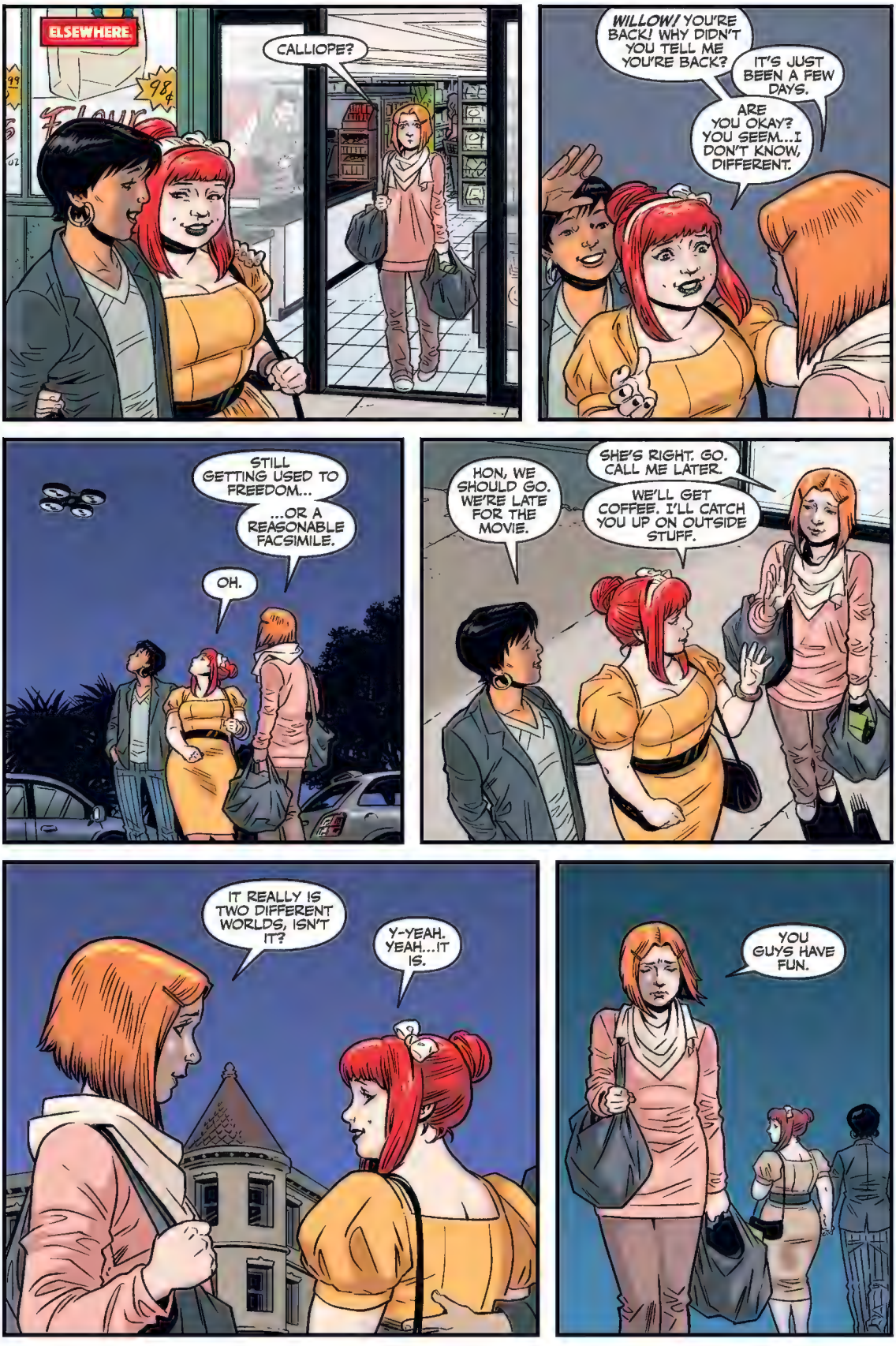
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M LOCAL, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. AND WHO YOU *AREN'T* ANYMORE.
I FIGHT M.M.A. I'M MORE THAN TWICE YOUR SIZE. SO MAYBE YOU APOLOGIZE BEFORE THIS TURNS BAD FOR YOU.
IF YOU THINK I'M SOME KIND OF FRAGILE FLOWER ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S IN FOR A ROUGH NIGHT.
I TRAINED FOR YEARS. I'VE GOT *ACTUAL* COMBAT EXPERIENCE, NOT CROSSFIT AND "THE OCTAGON." THAT DOESN'T JUST GO AWAY.
INTERESTING POINT.
LET'S FIND OUT WHAT STAYS AND WHAT GOES.
Y'KNOW WHAT?
I'D LIKE TO KNOW MYSELF.

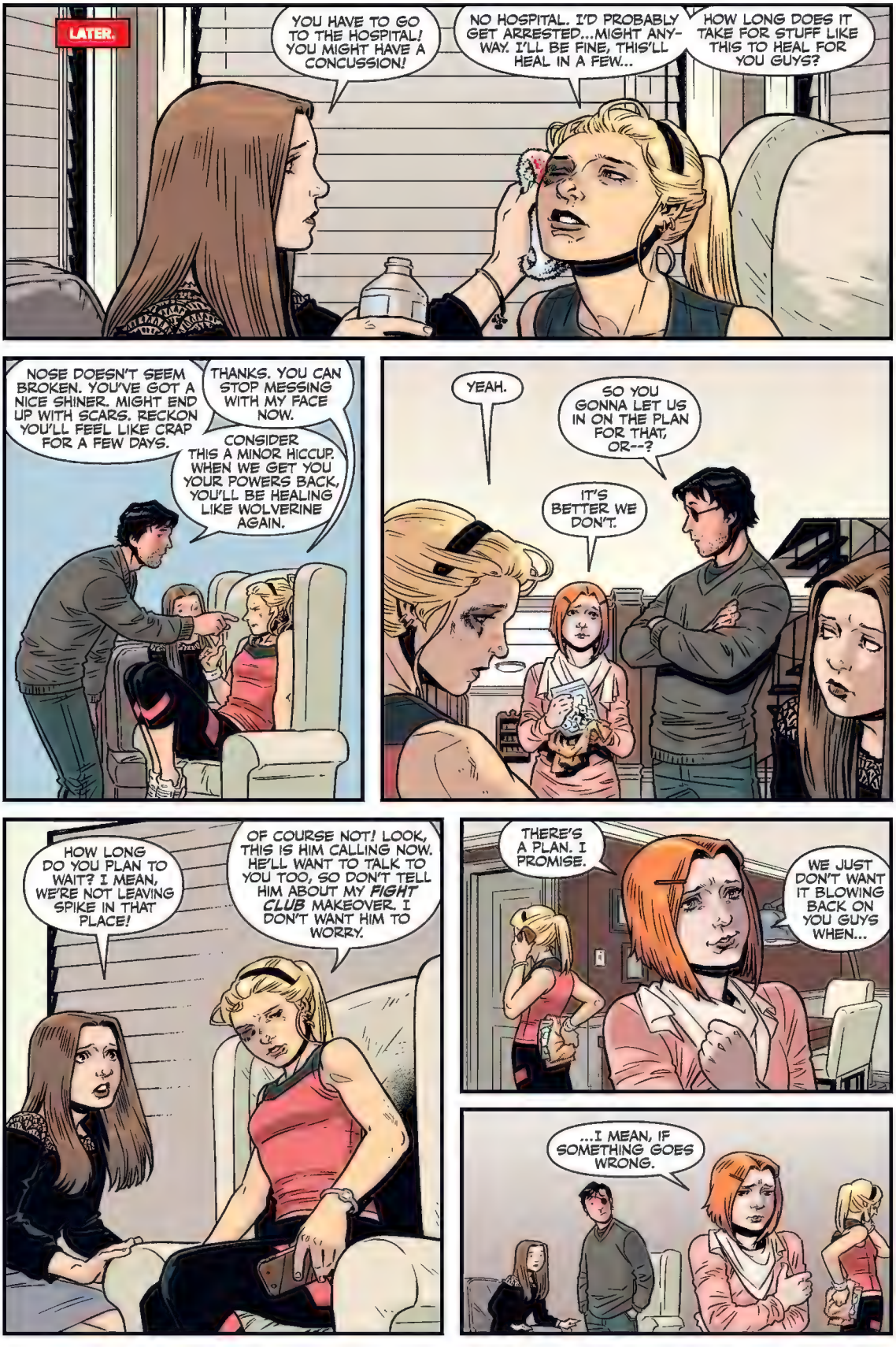

BAD HAIR DAY
HNF
BROK
BAD HAIR

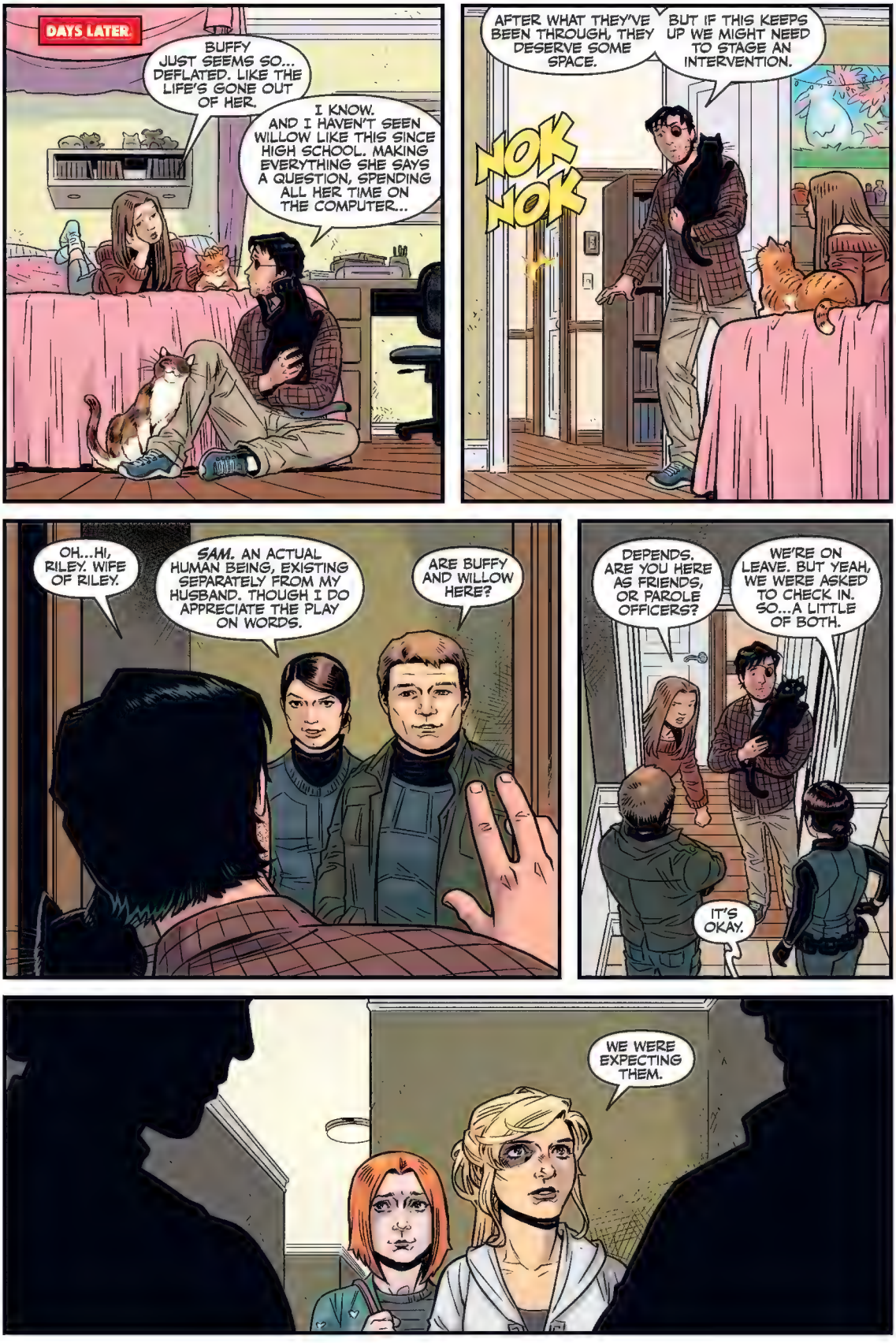
TEPP
BAD
DAY
KNNCH
UH
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

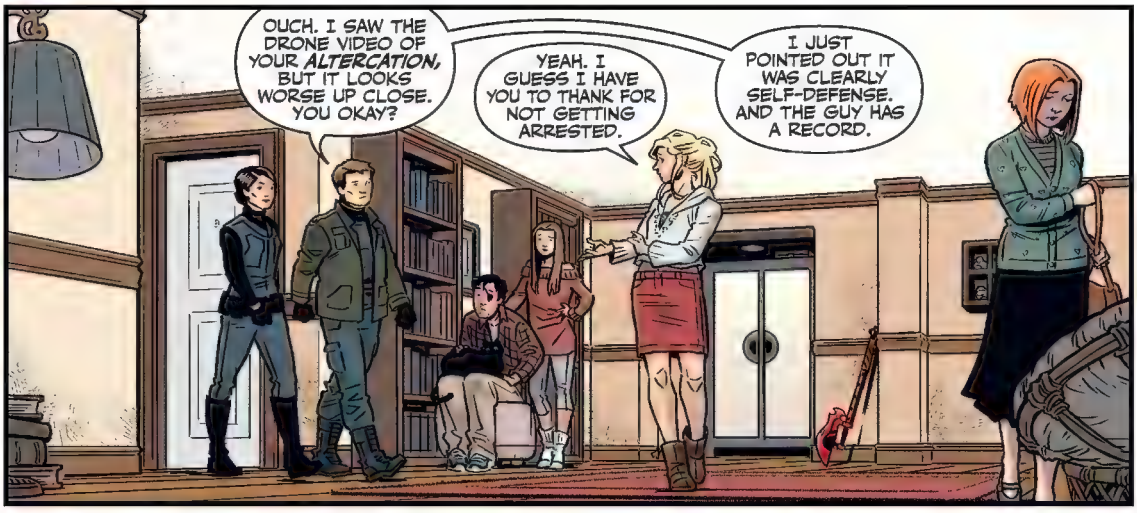
YOU MESSED UP, BABY GIRL.
HEY--
WHIFF
WHUH!

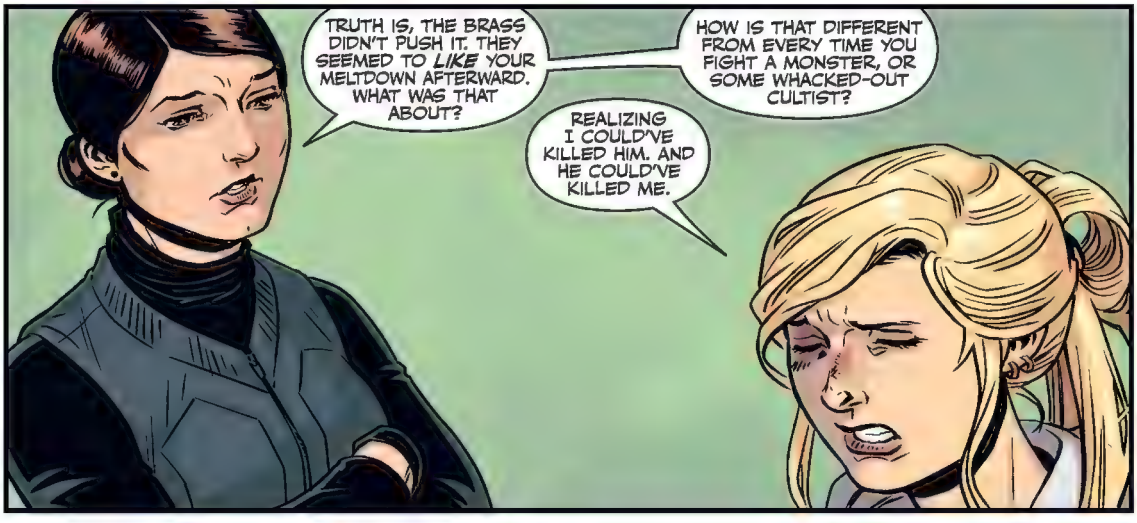
HGKK--
RRNN


ELSEWHERE
98¢
Flour
CALLIOPE?
WILLOW! YOU'RE BACK! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU'RE BACK?
IT'S JUST BEEN A FEW DAYS.
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU SEEM...I DON'T KNOW, DIFFERENT.
STILL GETTING USED TO FREEDOM...
...OR A REASONABLE FACSIMILE.
OH.
HON, WE SHOULD GO. WE'RE LATE FOR THE MOVIE.
SHE'S RIGHT. GO. CALL ME LATER.
WE'LL GET COFFEE. I'LL CATCH YOU UP ON OUTSIDE STUFF.
IT REALLY IS TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS, ISN'T IT?
Y-YEAH. YEAH...IT IS.
YOU GUYS HAVE FUN.

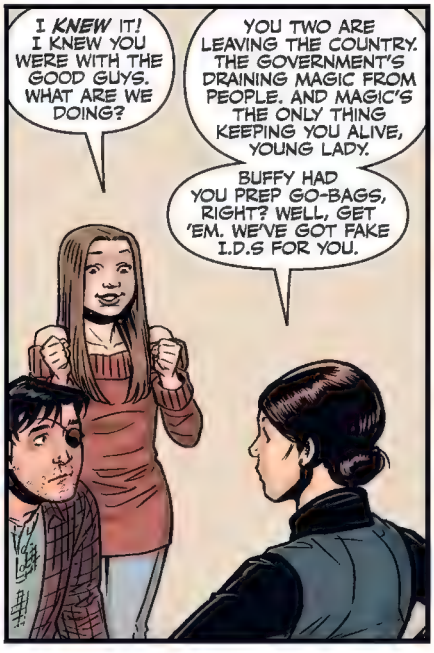

LATER.
YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL! YOU MIGHT HAVE A CONCUSSION!
NO HOSPITAL. I'D PROBABLY GET ARRESTED...MIGHT ANYWAY. I'LL BE FINE, THIS'LL HEAL IN A FEW...
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR STUFF LIKE THIS TO HEAL FOR YOU GUYS?
NOSE DOESN'T SEEM BROKEN. YOU'VE GOT A NICE SHINER. MIGHT END UP WITH SCARS. RECKON YOU'LL FEEL LIKE CRAP FOR A FEW DAYS.
THANKS. YOU CAN STOP MESSING WITH MY FACE NOW.
CONSIDER THIS A MINOR HICCUP. WHEN WE GET YOU YOUR POWERS BACK, YOU'LL BE HEALING LIKE WOLVERINE AGAIN.
YEAH.
SO YOU GONNA LET US IN ON THE PLAN FOR THAT, OR--?
IT'S BETTER WE DON'T.
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO WAIT? I MEAN, WE'RE NOT LEAVING SPIKE IN THAT PLACE!
OF COURSE NOT! LOOK, THIS IS HIM CALLING NOW. HE'LL WANT TO TALK TO YOU TOO, SO DON'T TELL HIM ABOUT MY *FIGHT CLUB* MAKEOVER. I DON'T WANT HIM TO WORRY.
THERE'S A PLAN. I PROMISE.
WE JUST DON'T WANT IT BLOWING BACK ON YOU GUYS WHEN...
...I MEAN, IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG.

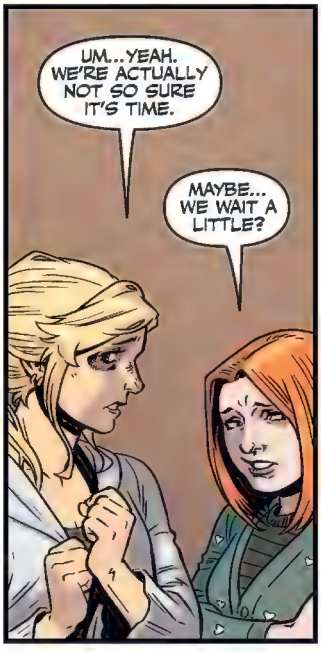

DAYS LATER
BUFFY JUST SEEMS SO... DEFLATED. LIKE THE LIFE'S GONE OUT OF HER.
I KNOW. AND I HAVEN'T SEEN WILLOW LIKE THIS SINCE HIGH SCHOOL. MAKING EVERYTHING SHE SAYS A QUESTION, SPENDING ALL HER TIME ON THE COMPUTER...
AFTER WHAT THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH, THEY DESERVE SOME SPACE.
BUT IF THIS KEEPS UP WE MIGHT NEED TO STAGE AN INTERVENTION.
NOK NOK
OH...HI, RILEY. WIFE OF RILEY.
SAM. AN ACTUAL HUMAN BEING, EXISTING SEPARATELY FROM MY HUSBAND. THOUGH I DO APPRECIATE THE PLAY ON WORDS.
ARE BUFFY AND WILLOW HERE?
DEPENDS. ARE YOU HERE AS FRIENDS, OR PAROLE OFFICERS?
WE'RE ON LEAVE. BUT YEAH, WE WERE ASKED TO CHECK IN. SO...A LITTLE OF BOTH.
IT'S OKAY.
WE WERE EXPECTING THEM.

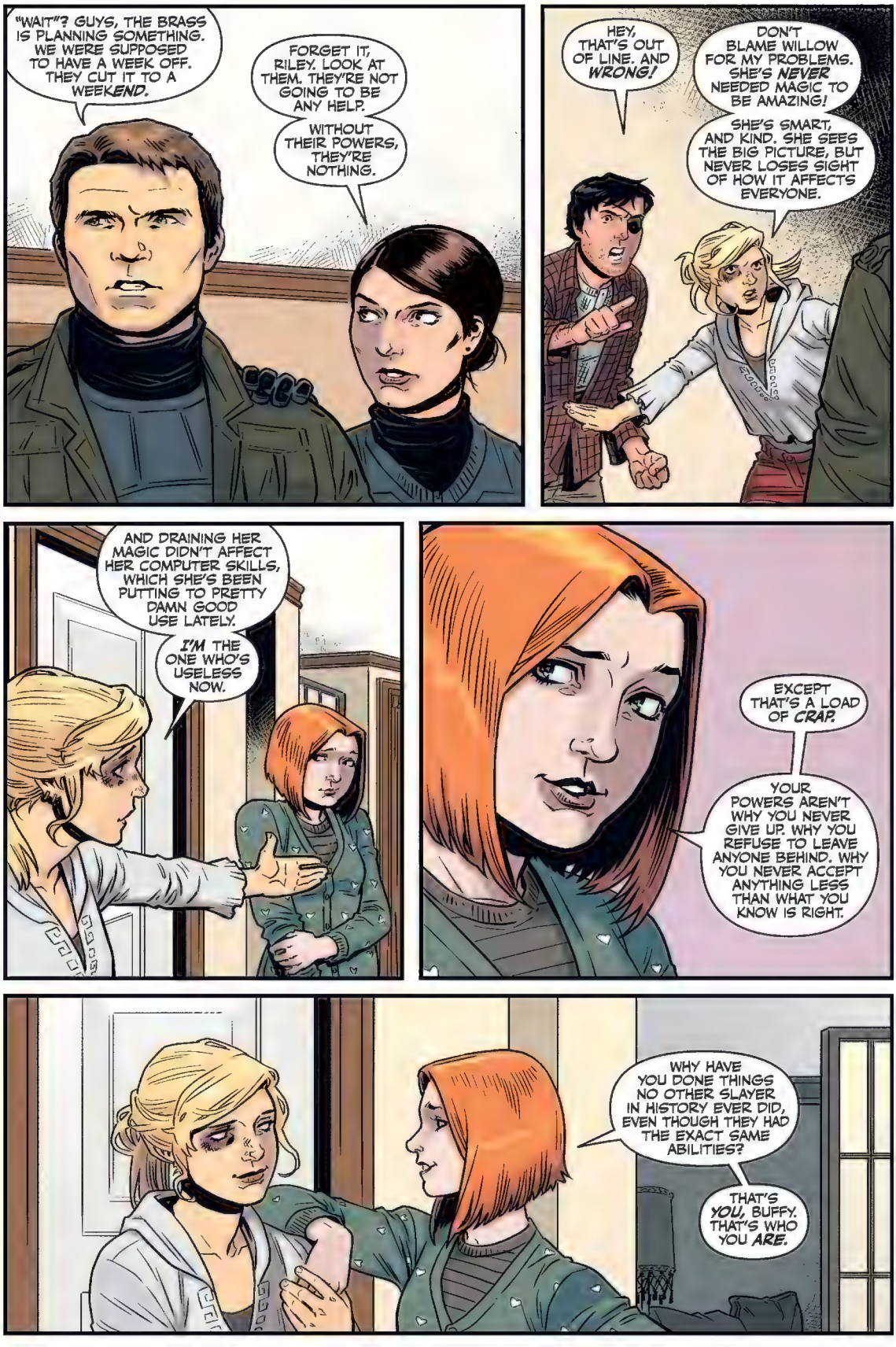

OUCH. I SAW THE DRONE VIDEO OF YOUR ALTERCATION, BUT IT LOOKS WORSE UP CLOSE. YOU OKAY?
YEAH. I GUESS I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR NOT GETTING ARRESTED.
I JUST POINTED OUT IT WAS CLEARLY SELF-DEFENSE. AND THE GUY HAS A RECORD.


TRUTH IS, THE BRASS DIDN'T PUSH IT. THEY SEEMED TO LIKE YOUR MELTDOWN AFTERWARD. WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
HOW IS THAT DIFFERENT FROM EVERY TIME YOU FIGHT A MONSTER, OR SOME WHACKED-OUT CULTIST?
REALIZING I COULD'VE KILLED HIM. AND HE COULD'VE KILLED ME.

IT JUST IS. I DON'T HAVE TO JUSTIFY MY FEELINGS TO YOU.
ANYWAY, IT'LL ALL BE FINE SOON. THIS ISN'T JUST A CHECK-IN. IT'S TIME.


I KNEW IT! I KNEW YOU WERE WITH THE GOOD GUYS. WHAT ARE WE DOING?
YOU TWO ARE LEAVING THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT'S DRAINING MAGIC FROM PEOPLE. AND MAGIC'S THE ONLY THING KEEPING YOU ALIVE, YOUNG LADY.
BUFFY HAD YOU PREP GO-BAGS, RIGHT? WELL, GET 'EM. WE'VE GOT FAKE I.D.S FOR YOU.

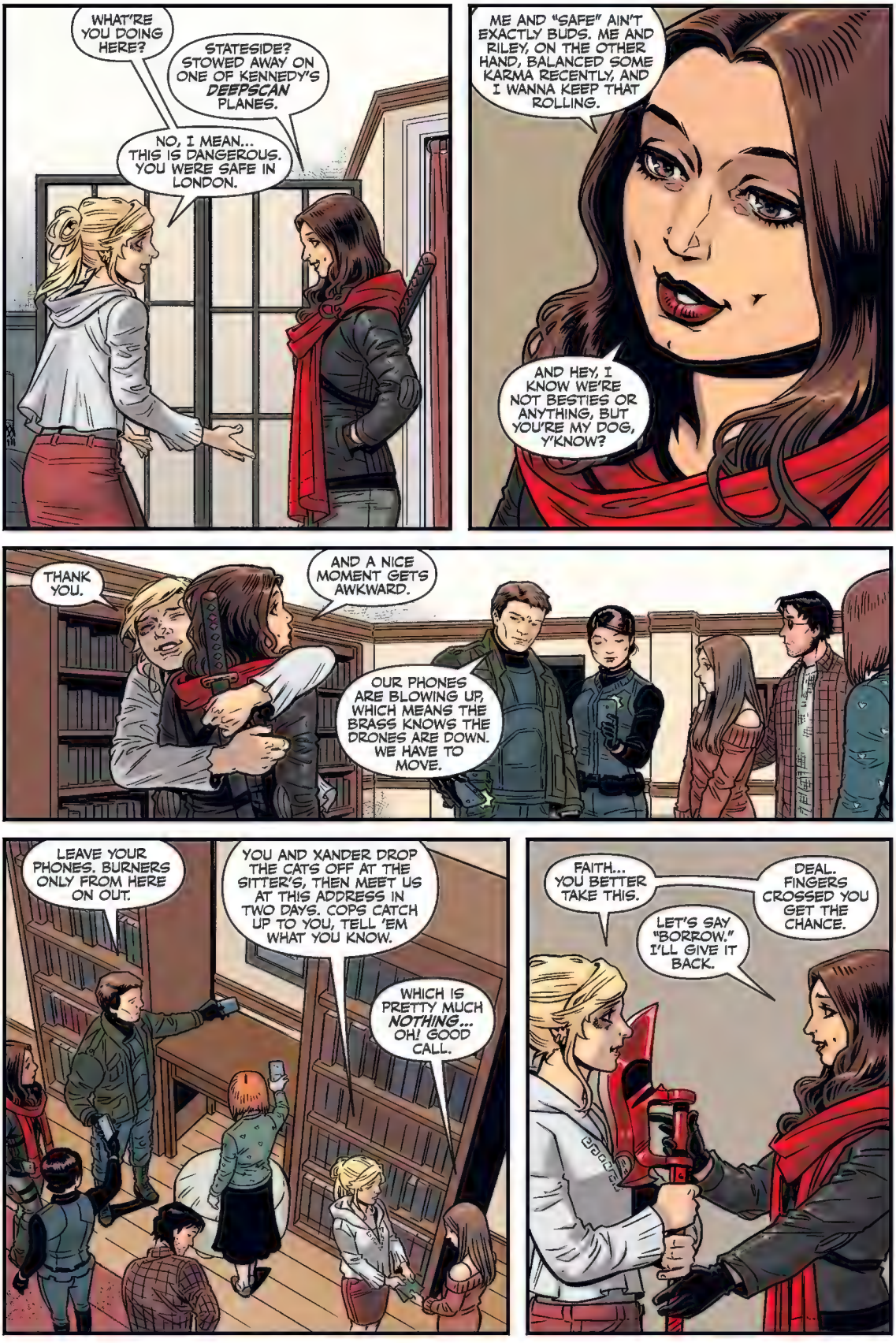

UM...YEAH. WE'RE ACTUALLY NOT SO SURE IT'S TIME.
MAYBE... WE WAIT A LITTLE?


"WAIT"? GUYS, THE BRASS IS PLANNING SOMETHING. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A WEEK OFF. THEY CUT IT TO A WEEKEND.
FORGET IT, RILEY. LOOK AT THEM. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE ANY HELP.
WITHOUT THEIR POWERS, THEY'RE NOTHING.
HEY, THAT'S OUT OF LINE. AND WRONG!
DON'T BLAME WILLOW FOR MY PROBLEMS. SHE'S NEVER NEEDED MAGIC TO BE AMAZING!
SHE'S SMART, AND KIND. SHE SEES THE BIG PICTURE, BUT NEVER LOSES SIGHT OF HOW IT AFFECTS EVERYONE.
AND DRAINING HER MAGIC DIDN'T AFFECT HER COMPUTER SKILLS, WHICH SHE'S BEEN PUTTING TO PRETTY DAMN GOOD USE LATELY.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S USELESS NOW.
EXCEPT THAT'S A LOAD OF CRAP.
YOUR POWERS AREN'T WHY YOU NEVER GIVE UP. WHY YOU REFUSE TO LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND. WHY YOU NEVER ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT.
WHY HAVE YOU DONE THINGS NO OTHER SLAYER IN HISTORY EVER DID, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD THE EXACT SAME ABILITIES?
THAT'S YOU, BUFFY. THAT'S WHO YOU ARE.

WELL, OKAY THEN.
MAYBE WE CAN ACTUALLY PULL THIS OFF.
DID YOU JUST PULL SOME GYM TEACHER *MIND GAME* WITH US? BECAUSE THAT...
...WAS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED. THANKS.
I HOPE SO. 'CAUSE ONCE I HIT "SEND" ON THE OLD BURNER PHONE, THERE'S NO GOING BACK.
SO, ONCE AND FOR ALL...ARE YOU IN?
IN.
IN.
IN AS HELL.
YOU'RE LEAVING THE COUNTRY, KIDDO. I, HOWEVER, AM IN.
NOT IF I BREAK YOUR KNEES.
SENT
THEN LET'S DO THIS.

SHNG
KZZTT
KRNNCH
TUNG

WHAT UP.
EVERYONE DOWN WITH THE REVOLUTION?
FAITH?!


WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
STATESIDE? STOWED AWAY ON ONE OF KENNEDY'S DEEPSCAN PLANES.
NO, I MEAN... THIS IS DANGEROUS. YOU WERE SAFE IN LONDON.
ME AND "SAFE" AIN'T EXACTLY BUDS. ME AND RILEY, ON THE OTHER HAND, BALANCED SOME KARMA RECENTLY, AND I WANNA KEEP THAT ROLLING.
AND HEY, I KNOW WE'RE NOT BESTIES OR ANYTHING, BUT YOU'RE MY DOG, Y'KNOW?
THANK YOU.
AND A NICE MOMENT GETS AWKWARD.
OUR PHONES ARE BLOWING UP, WHICH MEANS THE BRASS KNOWS THE DRONES ARE DOWN. WE HAVE TO MOVE.
LEAVE YOUR PHONES. BURNERS ONLY FROM HERE ON OUT.
YOU AND XANDER DROP THE CATS OFF AT THE SITTER'S, THEN MEET US AT THIS ADDRESS IN TWO DAYS. COPS CATCH UP TO YOU, TELL 'EM WHAT YOU KNOW.
WHICH IS PRETTY MUCH NOTHING... OH! GOOD CALL.
FAITH... YOU BETTER TAKE THIS.
DEAL. FINGERS CROSSED YOU GET THE CHANCE.
LET'S SAY "BORROW." I'LL GIVE IT BACK.

APPROACHING THE SAFE ZONE.
HOW'S IT COMING, WILLOW?
GIVE ME A SEC. THERE'S ALWAYS SOME SIGNAL LATENCY WITH SATELLITE INTERNET.
OKAY. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
WHAT, YOU HACKED THE CAMP THAT EASY?
HARDLY. MOST OF THEIR IMPORTANT STUFF IS ON A CLOSED SYSTEM, AND I CAN'T DO MUCH DAMAGE WITH WHAT ISN'T. BUT HOPEFULLY, IT'S A START...
SPECIALISTS FINN AND FINN, ESCORTING CIVILIAN I.T. CONSULTANTS--
LET ME STOP YOU RIGHT THERE, MA'AM.

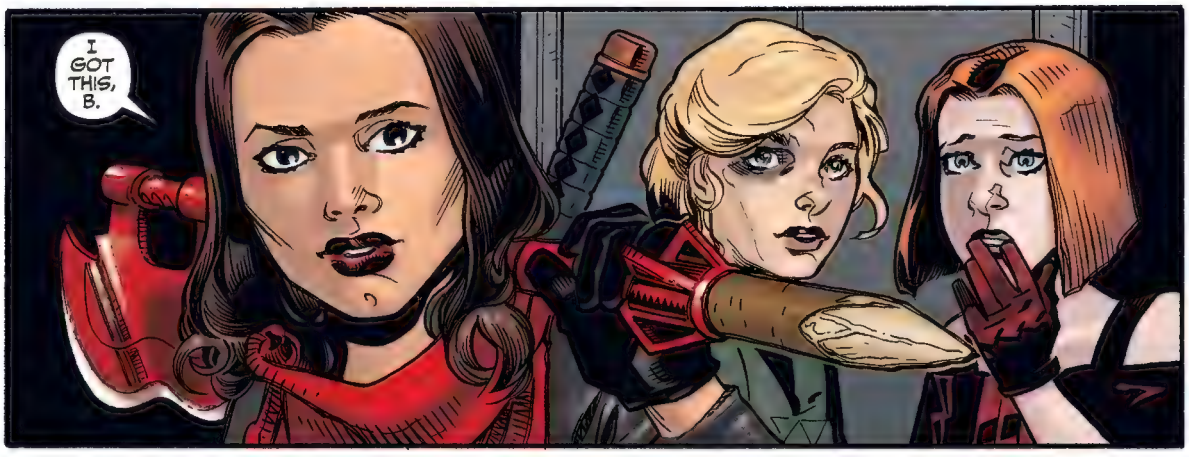
OUR SYSTEMS ARE DOWN, WHICH MEANS I CAN'T ACCESS ANY ORDERS. I CAN'T ADMIT YOU UNTIL WE GET IT FIXED.
TYPICAL. LOOK--IT'S RUIZ, RIGHT? ANY CHANCE YOU CAN JUST LET US INTO THE VISITOR WAITING AREA?
IT'S BEEN A LONG DRIVE, AND WE COULD USE THE FACILITIES.
SURE. I REMEMBER YOU TWO FROM BEFORE. AND OUR SCANNERS ARE STILL WORKING, SO COME ON THROUGH.
THANKS. BY THE WAY, SHE'S GONNA TEST AS MAGIC--SLAYER GUARD ON LOAN FROM DEEPSCAN.
WE GOT PLENTY OF SLAYERS HERE. LONG AS HER POWER LEVELS ARE WITHIN ACCEPTED PARAMETERS, IT'S ALL GOOD...AND THEY ARE.
NICE. THE CASE WORKED LIKE A CHARM...THEY DIDN'T GET A PING FROM THE SCYTHE.
SURE, FARADAY CAGES BLOCK ALL ENERGY. AND MAGIC'S JUST EXOTIC ENERGY.
RILEY, SAM... THANKS FOR THIS. I PROMISE WE'LL BE BACK FOR YOU AS SOON AS WE CAN.
WE'LL BE OKAY, EVEN AFTER THEY CATCH US. THERE'S A LOT MORE PEOPLE WHO AGREE WITH US IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.
CAREFUL GETTING IN. WE'LL TRY TO TAKE AS MUCH HEAT OFF YOU AS POSSIBLE. WILLOW, HOW LONG UNTIL--
NOW.

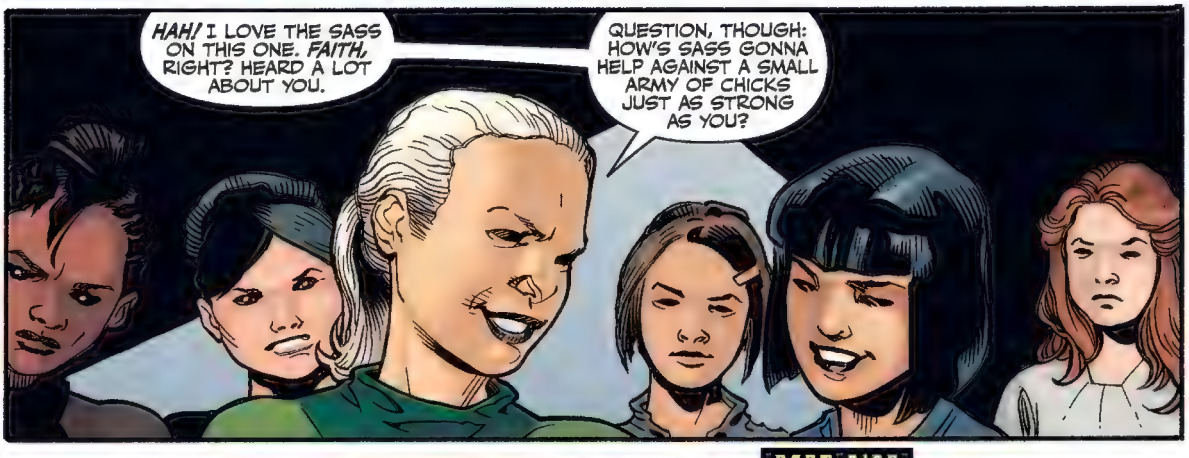
THE POWER DRAINER'S IN HERE. SHOULD BE VACANT THIS LATE, BUT BREAKING IN'LL SET OFF ALARMS. NO WAY AROUND IT.
AND YOU CAN REVERSE IT? *UN*-DRAIN YOUR POWERS?
LAB 6
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF HOW IT WORKS THAT I'M PRETTY SURE.

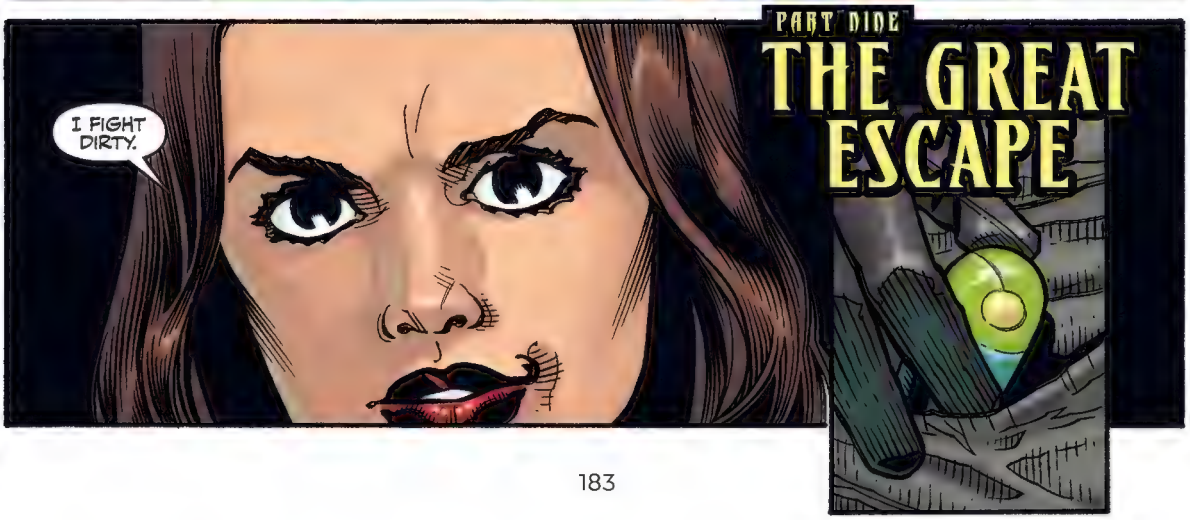
THEN LET'S HUSTLE. FAST OR FAIL.
KNCH

I'M GONNA GO WITH OPTION TWO.

COULDN'T HACK IT AS NORMALS, HUH? CAN'T SAY I BLAME YOU. I WOULDN'T TRADE MY SLAYER POWER FOR ANYTHING.
PROBLEM IS, *YOU DID.* AND BY COMING BACK HERE, YOU'RE BREAKING THE LAW.
GONNA SUCK BEING NORMAL IN PRISON, LEMME TELL YA.


I GOT THIS, B.

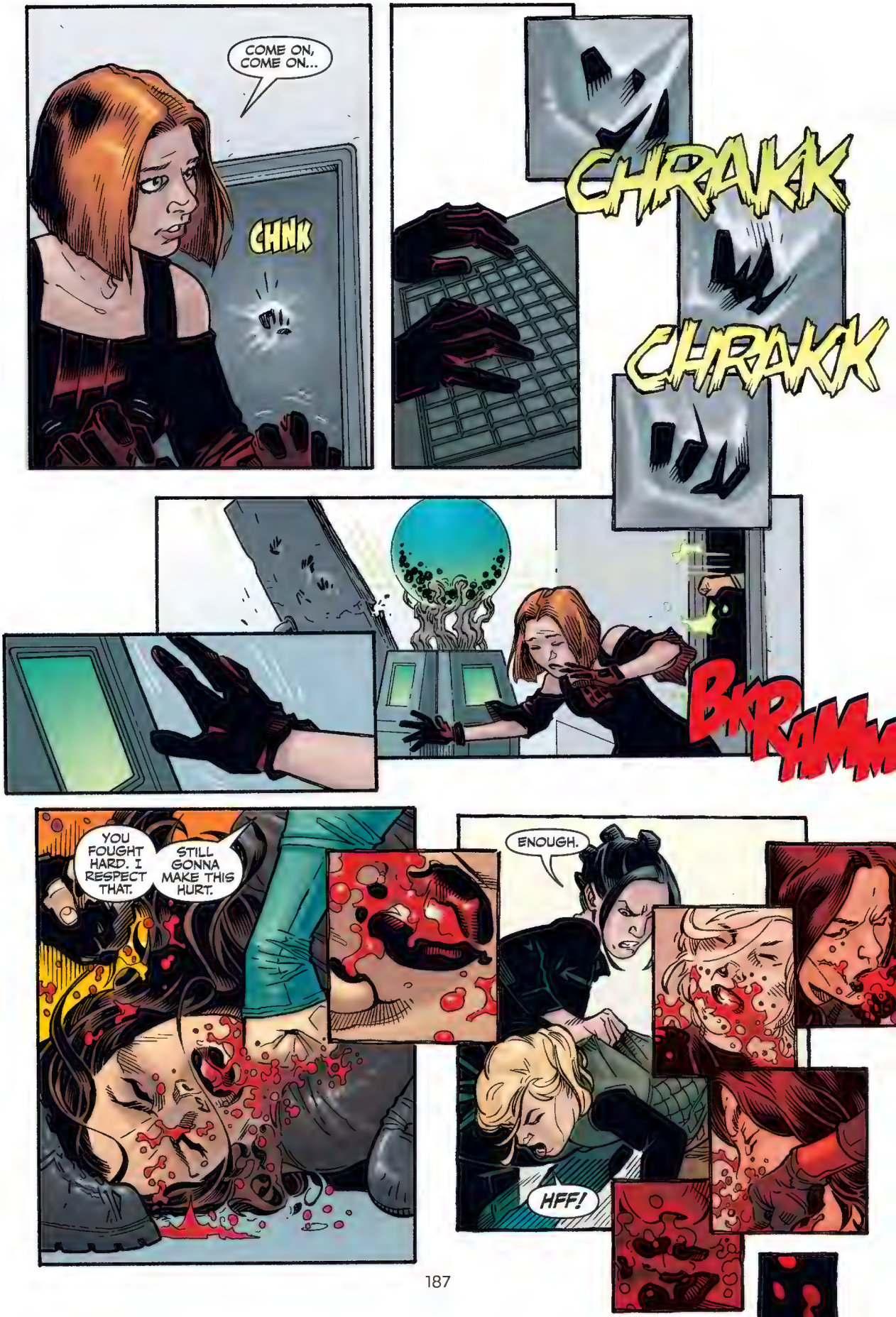

HAH! I LOVE THE SASS ON THIS ONE. *FAITH,* RIGHT? HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.
QUESTION, THOUGH: HOW'S SASS GONNA HELP AGAINST A SMALL ARMY OF CHICKS JUST AS STRONG AS YOU?


I FIGHT DIRTY.
PART NINE
THE GREAT ESCAPE

GO!
SMOKE BOMB!
IF WE CAN'T SEE, NEITHER CAN SHE--
NNK!
KTCH
GO!!

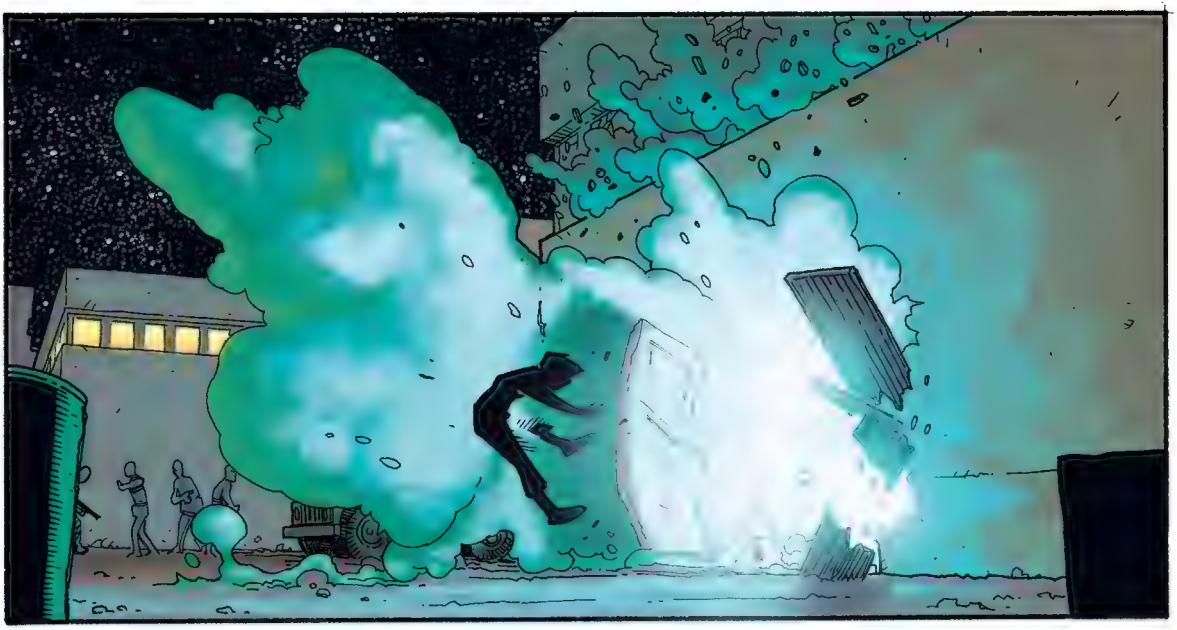
COME ON!
HEY NOW. GOOD THING WE STAYED AT OUR POST, HUH?
TOTALLY. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO BEAT SUMMERS DOWN FOREVER. YOU TAKE THE GINGER.
RUN, WIL!
RU--UKK!
KNCH
HALT! LAST WARNING!
I WILL USE LETHAL FORCE!

IS THAT--
--ALL YOU PRINCESSES--
--GOT?
OW! YOU LITTLE--
SLAM!
CLK

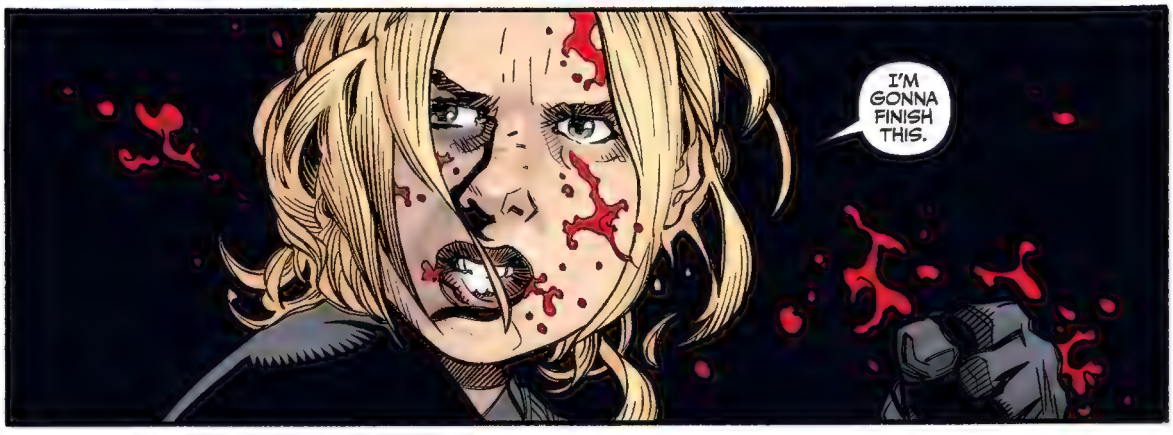

COME ON, COME ON...
CHNK
CHRAKK
CHRAKK
BKRAMM
YOU FOUGHT HARD. I RESPECT THAT.
STILL GONNA MAKE THIS HURT.
ENOUGH.
HFF!

VVRAMM
NGH!
MUCH BETTER.
I THINK THIS BELONGS TO YOU.
HELL YEAH IT DOES.
SO...

...HOW ABOUT WE MAKE THIS A FAIR FIGHT.
GOOD. I WANT IT TO COUNT WHEN I BEAT YOU DOWN.
SO MUCH BETTER THAN YOU HAVE TRIED.
GUESS WHO'S STILL STANDING?
INCURSO!
FAWWRRRSH

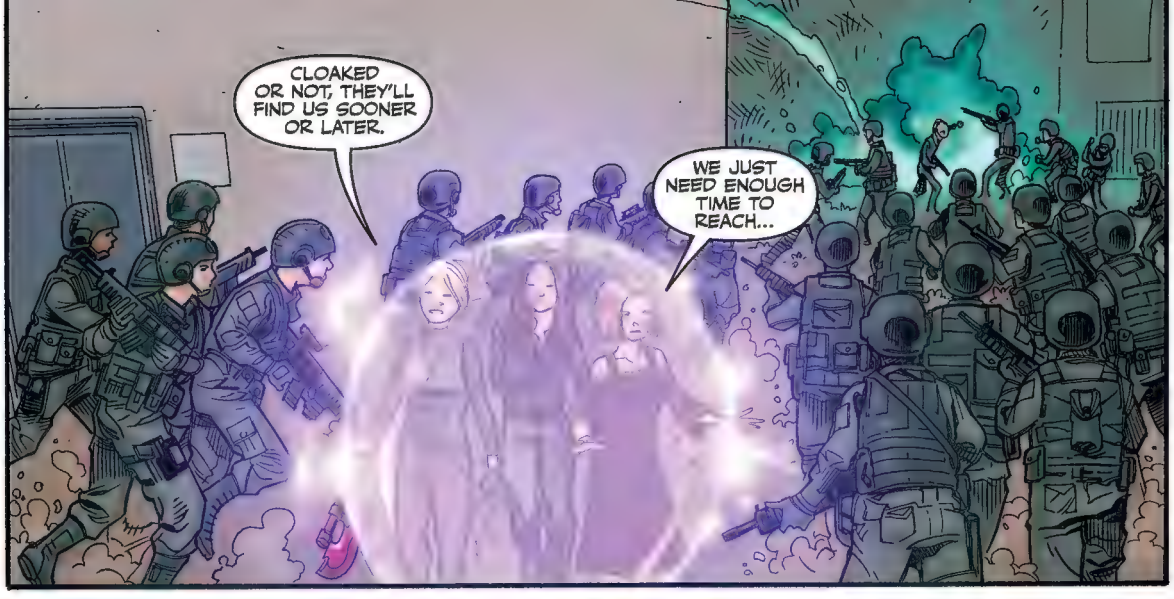


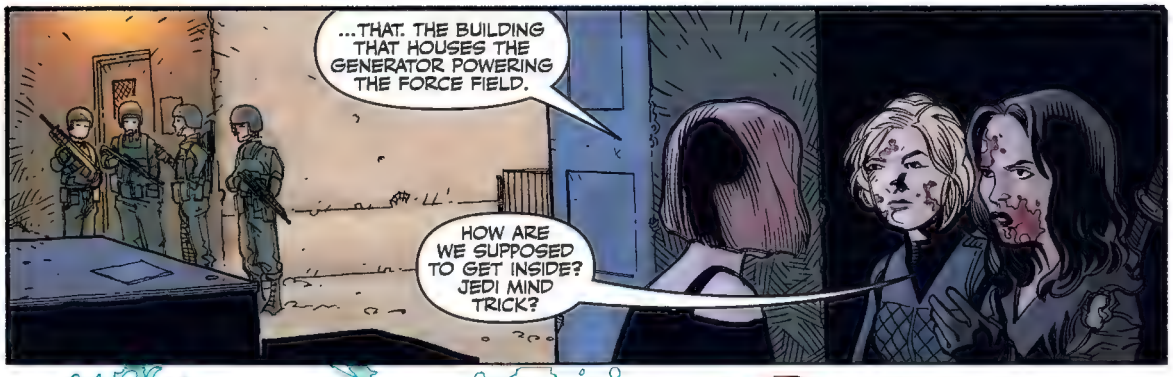
BUFFY, MOVE, I'LL--
NO.

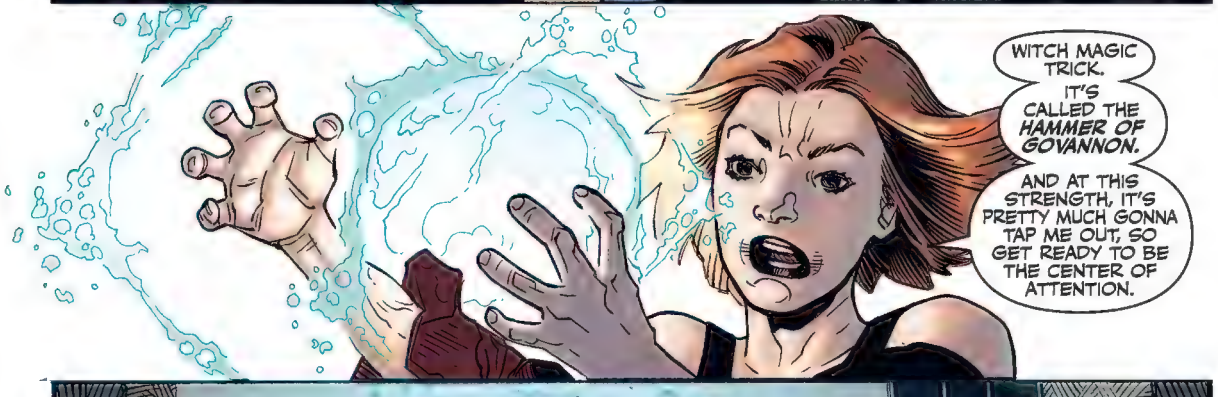

I'M GONNA FINISH THIS.

OVER MY DEAD--
WRONG.
OVER YOUR...
...THOROUGHLY BEATEN BODY.
TOOOM

YO, B.
BEEN KEEPING THIS WARM FOR YOU.
THANKS.
IS IT BAD THAT I FEEL... WHOLE AGAIN? THAT I DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT AS JUST BUFFY SUMMERS, NORMAL PERSON?
NAH. BUFFY SUMMERS ISN'T A NORMAL PERSON.
NOTHING WRONG WITH OWNING IT.
ALTHOUGH I GOTTA SAY, YOU BOTH KICKED A SOLID AMOUNT OF BUTT WITHOUT YOUR POWERS. WHICH DOESN'T SUCK.
SURE, IT'S NICE TO KNOW WE CAN. BUT THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR FIGURING OUT WHO YOU WANT TO BE AND FIGHTING FOR IT...OR FIGHTING TO KEEP IT.
AND I THINK I JUST GOT WHAT WE NEED TO DO THAT. LADIES, FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE KNOW WHERE TO GO AND WHO TO HIT.
WE GOTTA GET OUT ALIVE FIRST. AND THERE'LL BE SOLDIERS COMING... WITH GUNS AND GRENADES AND WHATNOT.
WE CAN'T FIGHT 'EM ALL.
NOT ALONE.


CLOAKED OR NOT, THEY'LL FIND US SOONER OR LATER.
WE JUST NEED ENOUGH TIME TO REACH...


...THAT. THE BUILDING THAT HOUSES THE GENERATOR POWERING THE FORCE FIELD.
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET INSIDE? JEDI MIND TRICK?


WITCH MAGIC TRICK.
IT'S CALLED THE *HAMMER OF GOVANNON.*
AND AT THIS STRENGTH, IT'S PRETTY MUCH GONNA TAP ME OUT, SO GET READY TO BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.

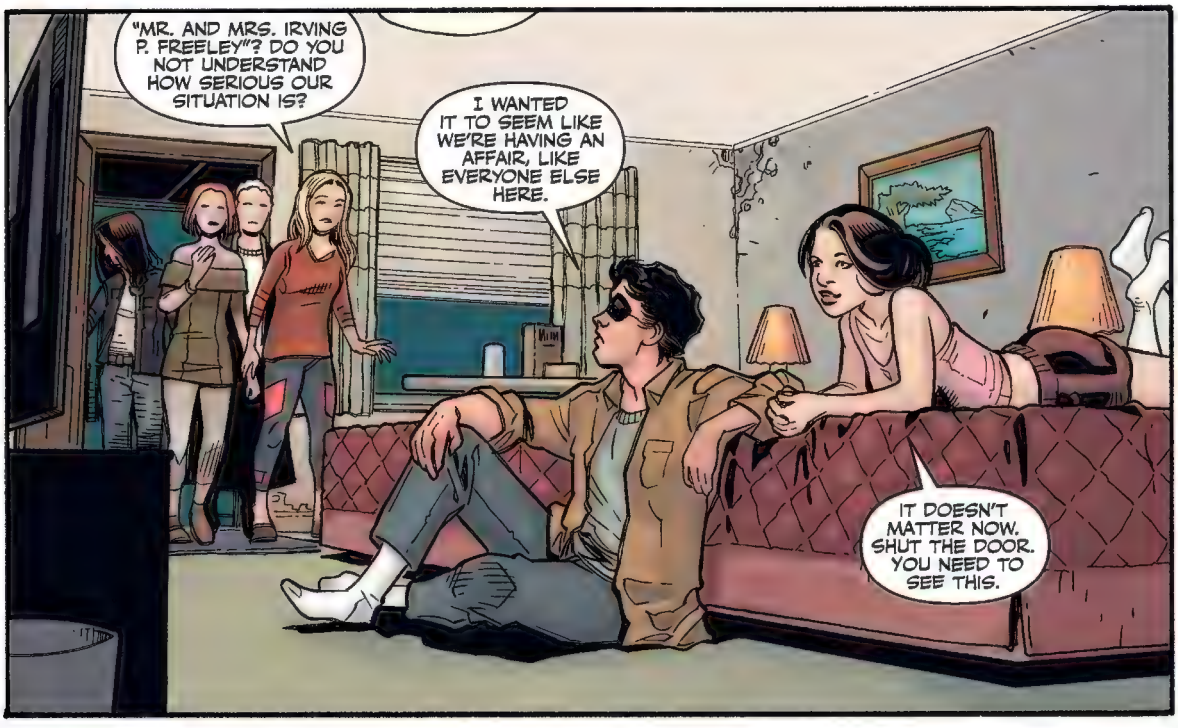
SHHRAKRAKKK
EXCUDO!
DAMN! YOU COULDN'T DO THAT BEFORE?
DIDN'T HAVE A PLAN BEFORE.

FFZZZAATT
I GOT YOU.
AND WE GOT COMPANY.
FREEZE!
ON YOUR KNEES! NOW!
DELTA THREE, I HAVE THE INTRUDERS. PLEASE ADVISE--
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT NOISE?

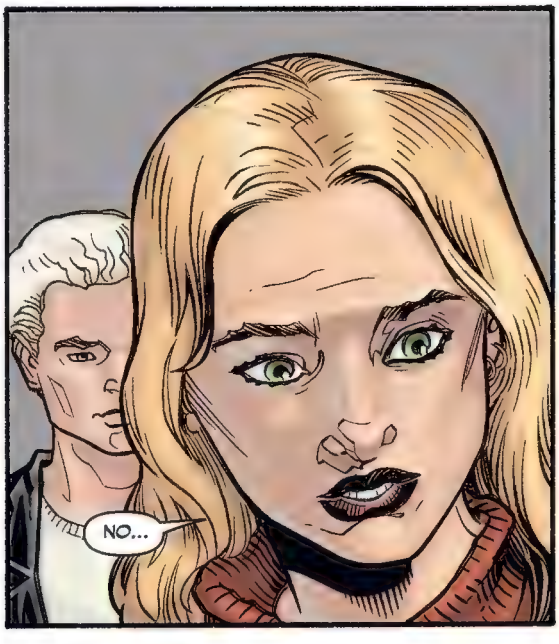
THE FORCEFIELD'S DOWN!
WE'RE FREE!
SON OF A--
YOU DID THIS!
I GOT--
ALLOW ME.
BROK
ALL RIGHT, LADIES?

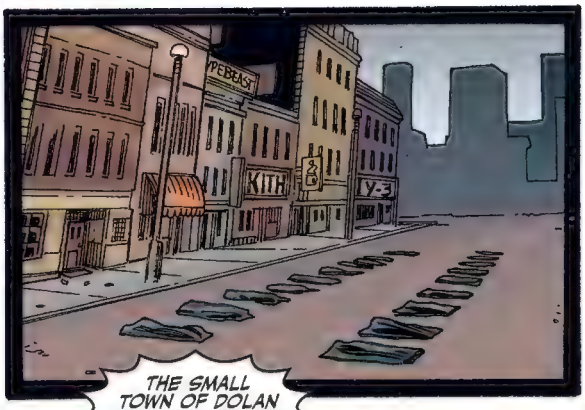
I AM NOW.
STILL?
WE'RE ALL PLEASANTLY SURPRISED.
WE SHOULD--
MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO KEEP FATALITIES DOWN ON BOTH SIDES, SLAYER, WE NEED TO SCARPER. REINFORCEMENTS'LL BE EN ROUTE.
BLONDIE'S RIGHT. C'MON, LET'S SEE IF I REMEMBER HOW TO HOT-WIRE A CAR.
'CAUSE THINGS ARE MOST DEF GONNA GET WICKED BAD, WICKED FAST...

SAV-MOR MOTEL
NO VACANCY
SUE'S CAFE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.
"...AND WE WANNA BE FAR AWAY WHEN THEY DO."


"MR. AND MRS. IRVING P. FREELEY"? DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS OUR SITUATION IS?
I WANTED IT TO SEEM LIKE WE'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE HERE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. SHUT THE DOOR. YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.

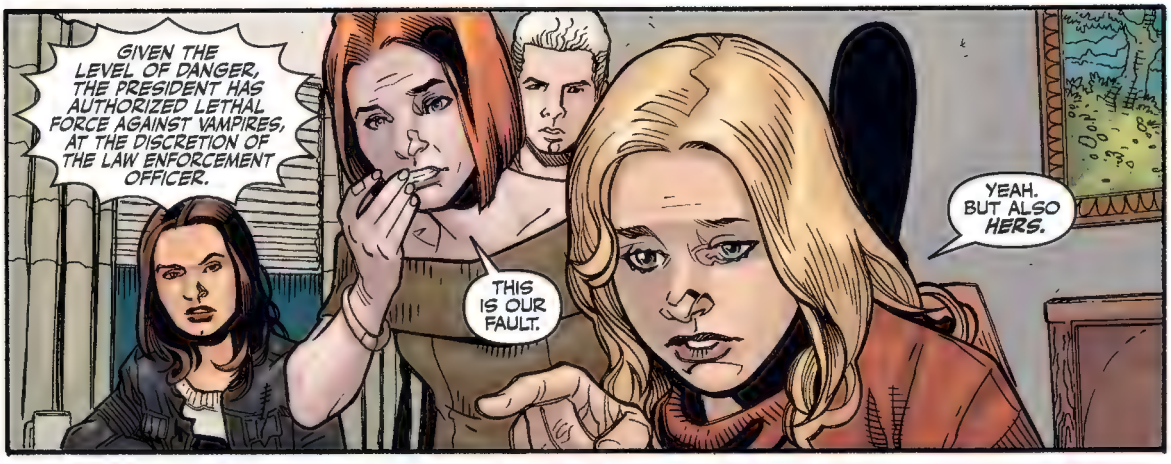
PRESS SECRETARY JOANNA WISE.
...AT THE TIME OF THE ESCAPE, THE SAFE ZONE'S POPULATION HAD BEEN REDUCED TO INTERNEES WHO WERE COMPLETELY SUPERNATURAL. INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF VAMPIRES.
WITHIN LITTLE MORE THAN AN HOUR, WHILE TROOPS WERE STILL STRUGGLING TO STABILIZE THE SAFE ZONE ITSELF, OUR GREATEST FEARS WERE REALIZED.


NO...

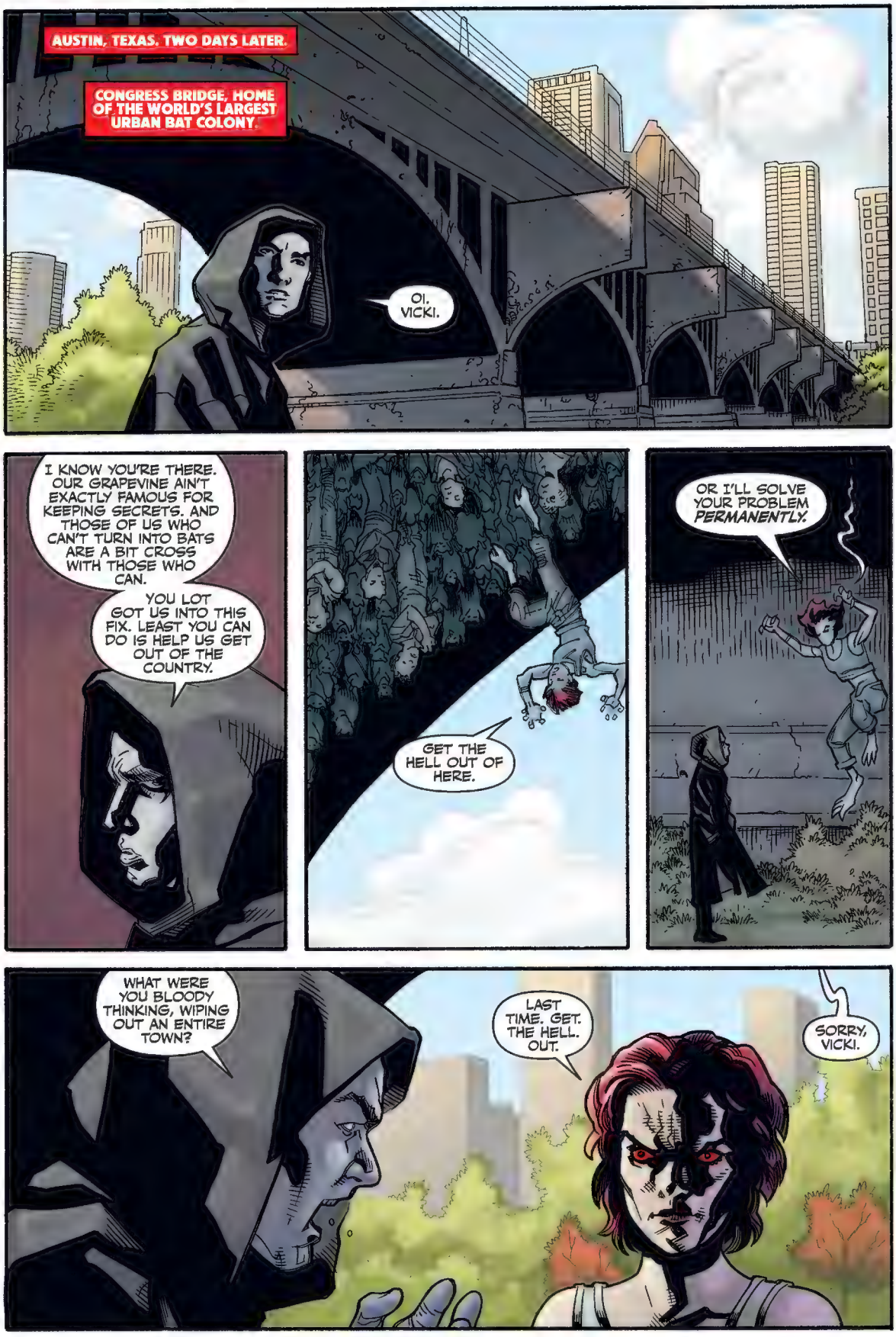


THE SMALL TOWN OF DOLAN SPRINGS, ARIZONA, WAS ATTACKED BY ESCAPEES.

THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF SOME TWO THOUSAND SOULS WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED, AS WELL AS TWO DOZEN SOLDIERS AND SLAYERS DISPATCHED TO PROTECT IT.

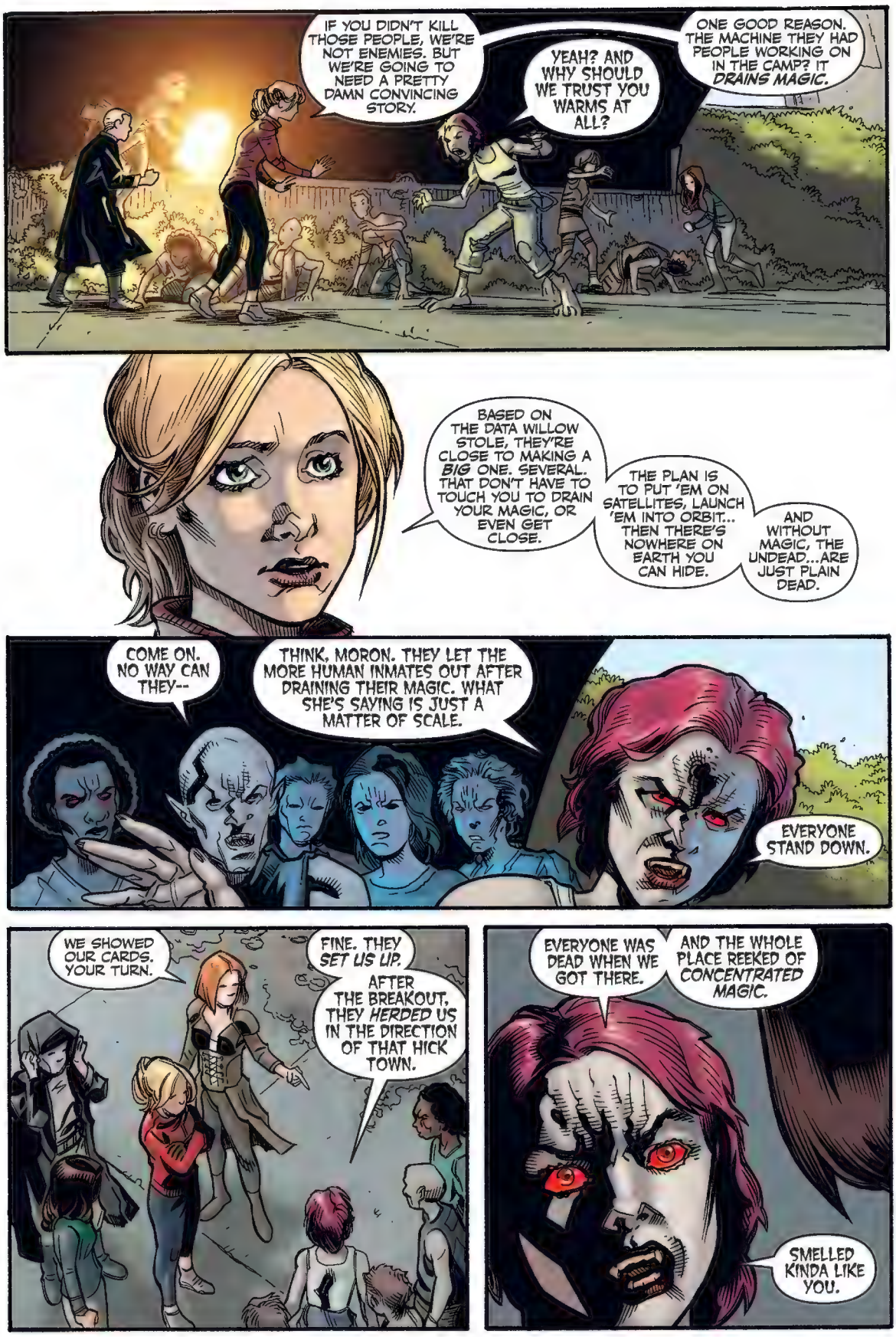


THESE ARE IMAGES CAPTURED BY SECURITY CAMERAS. IF YOU SEE THESE OR ANY VAMPIRES, DO NOT APPROACH. NOTIFY AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY.


AUSTIN, TEXAS. TWO DAYS LATER.
CONGRESS BRIDGE. HOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST URBAN BAT COLONY.
OI, VICKI.
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE. OUR GRAPEVINE AIN'T EXACTLY FAMOUS FOR KEEPING SECRETS. AND THOSE OF US WHO CAN'T TURN INTO BATS ARE A BIT CROSS WITH THOSE WHO CAN.
YOU LOT GOT US INTO THIS FIX. LEAST YOU CAN DO IS HELP US GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
OR I'LL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM *PERMANENTLY.*
WHAT WERE YOU BLOODY THINKING, WIPING OUT AN ENTIRE TOWN?
LAST TIME. GET. THE HELL. OUT.
SORRY, VICKI.

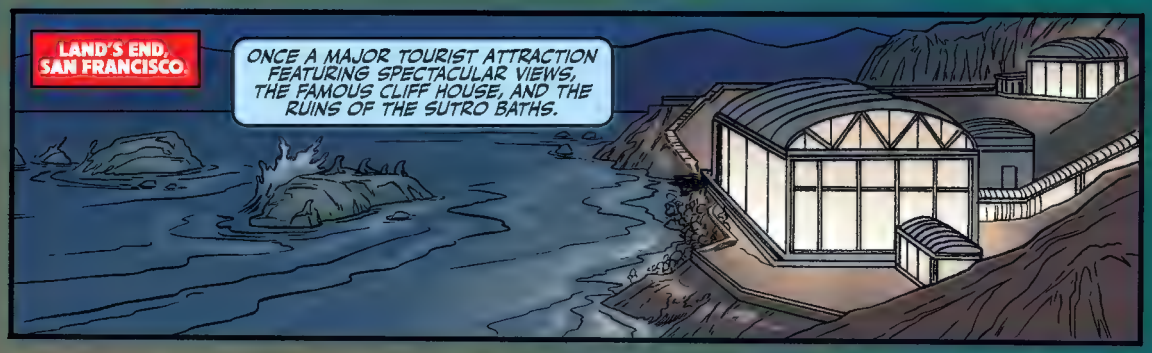
...WE CAN'T DO THAT.
I KNEW IT. YO, SQUAD!
WE GOT SOME HATERS HERE.

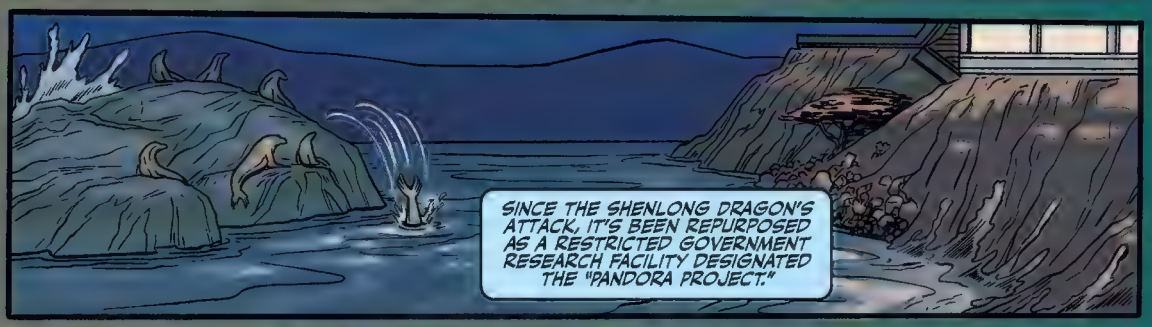
HOW STUPID ARE YOU? WE ATTRACT COPS. YOU DON'T THINK THEY'LL KILL YOU TOO?
PROBABLY. DOESN'T MATTER. YOU NEED TO ANSWER FOR DOLAN SPRINGS.
THAT WASN'T US! WE WERE SET UP!
NICE TRY. WE SAW THE VIDEO.
GETTING TO WHERE WE'LL NEED TO START DUSTING THESE GUYS, B...
THE VIDEO ALL OVER T.V.? STARRING ME? LEMME ASK YOU A QUESTION.
YOU NOTICE ANY BLOOD ON MY FANGS?
FAPP
NO. I DIDN'T.

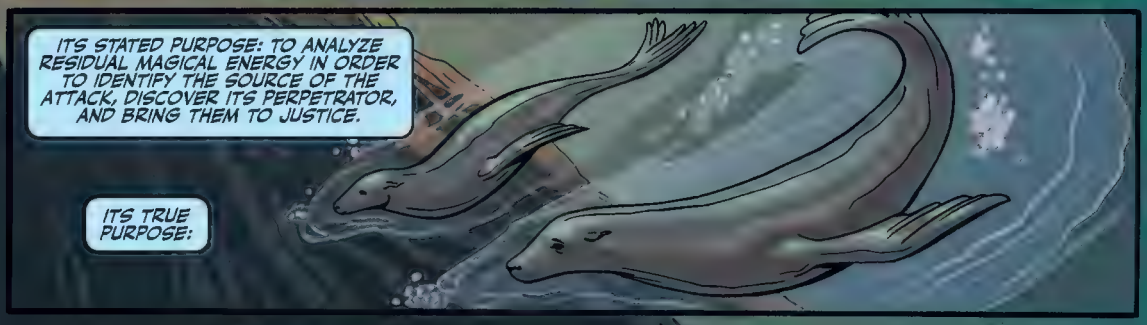

IF YOU DIDN'T KILL THOSE PEOPLE, WE'RE NOT ENEMIES. BUT WE'RE GOING TO NEED A PRETTY DAMN CONVINCING STORY.
YEAH? AND WHY SHOULD WE TRUST YOU WARMS AT ALL?
ONE GOOD REASON. THE MACHINE THEY HAD PEOPLE WORKING ON IN THE CAMP? IT DRAINS MAGIC.
BASED ON THE DATA WILLOW STOLE, THEY'RE CLOSE TO MAKING A BIG ONE. SEVERAL. THAT DON'T HAVE TO TOUCH YOU TO DRAIN YOUR MAGIC, OR EVEN GET CLOSE.
THE PLAN IS TO PUT 'EM ON SATELLITES, LAUNCH 'EM INTO ORBIT... THEN THERE'S NOWHERE ON EARTH YOU CAN HIDE.
AND WITHOUT MAGIC, THE UNDEAD...ARE JUST PLAIN DEAD.
COME ON. NO WAY CAN THEY--
THINK, MORON. THEY LET THE MORE HUMAN INMATES OUT AFTER DRAINING THEIR MAGIC. WHAT SHE'S SAYING IS JUST A MATTER OF SCALE.
EVERYONE STAND DOWN.
WE SHOWED OUR CARDS. YOUR TURN.
FINE. THEY SET US UP.
AFTER THE BREAKOUT, THEY HERDED US IN THE DIRECTION OF THAT HICK TOWN.
EVERYONE WAS DEAD WHEN WE GOT THERE.
AND THE WHOLE PLACE REEKED OF CONCENTRATED MAGIC.
SMELLED KINDA LIKE YOU.

YOU'RE SAYING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT KILLED TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE JUST TO HAVE AN EXCUSE TO DUST VAMPIRES?
SMALLPOX IN BLANKETS. NOT A BIG LEAP.
MAYBE IT'S THE GOVERNMENT. MAYBE JUST A FACTION, LIKE THOSE GENERALS WHO TRIED TO TAKE US OUT BEFORE. POINT IS...
...IT'S NOT JUST AN EXCUSE TO DUST VAMPIRES. IT'S AN EXCUSE TO DRAIN EVERY SUPERNATURAL BEING ON THE PLANET, AND NOT SWEAT THE CONSEQUENCES.
YOU WERE BEHIND THE BREAKOUT. YOU GAVE THEM THE EXCUSE!
SHUT UP. THEY WOULD'VE COME UP WITH SOMETHING. AND I'M GLAD TO BE OUTTA THERE...RATHER DIE FIGHTING THAN IN A DAMN CAGE.
THIS SUCKS. SIX MONTHS AGO, I WAS COOL. HAD EMO CHICKS LINING UP TO LET ME SUCK THEIR BLOOD... WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
WHINY BOY ASKS A GOOD QUESTION. IN A SUPER ANNOYING WAY.
IF YOU CAN TRUST ME, THE BEST THING YOU COULD DO IS STAY IN THE COUNTRY.
TRAVEL AT NIGHT, AS BATS, MIST, BEES, WHATEVER. SHOW YOURSELVES TO SECURITY CAMERAS ONCE A DAY. LEAD THEM EAST.
WE'RE GOING TO THE SOURCE. TO FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS, HOW THEY PLAN TO DO IT...AND SHUT IT DOWN. BEST THAT'S ALL YOU KNOW.
AND WHAT'RE YOU ALL GONNA DO? BESIDES HEAD WEST?
...
FINE.
NOW DISAPPEAR. THE TOURISTS START SHOWING UP SOON.

CLEVER, NOT LETTING VICKI'S LOT IN ON THE DETAILS. BUT UNLESS THAT'S GENERAL PREJUDICE AGAINST MY SORT, THINK YOU COULD TELL ME WHERE WE'RE OFF TO?
I WASN'T SURE MYSELF UNTIL WE BROKE INTO CAMP. BUT WILLOW DOWNLOADED THE SHIPPING ORDERS FOR THE MACHINE PARTS.
EVERYTHING THE CAMP MAKES GOES TO A PLACE CALLED THE *PANDORA PROJECT.*
IN SAN FRANCISCO. BACK WHERE IT ALL STARTED...
...IS WHERE IT'S GOING TO END.





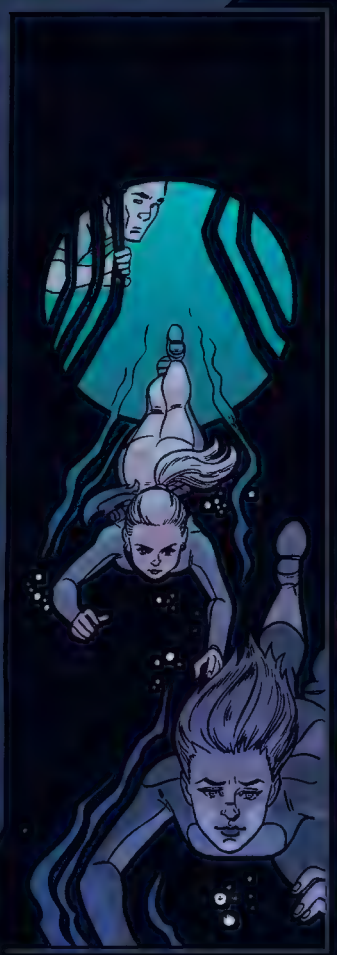


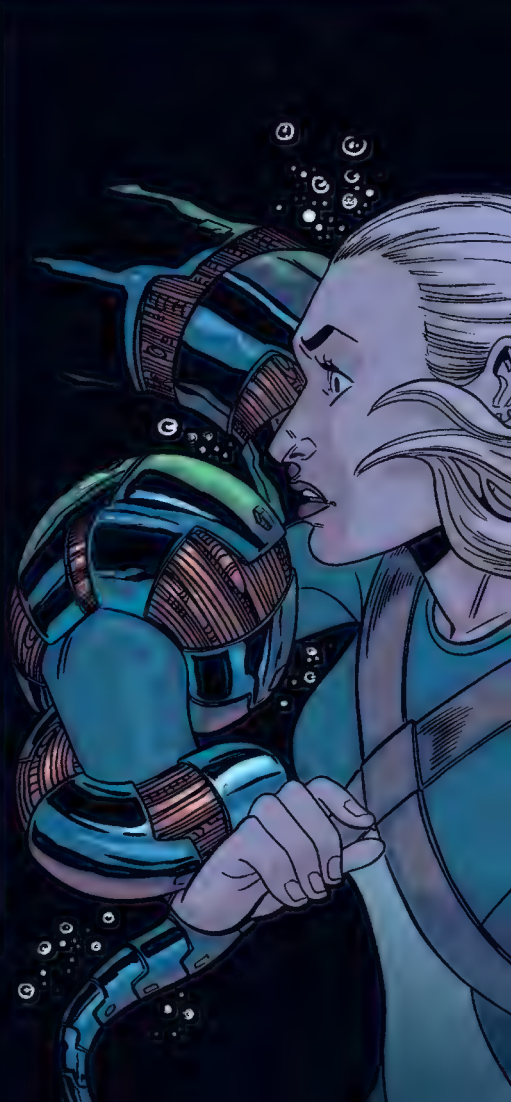
PART TEN

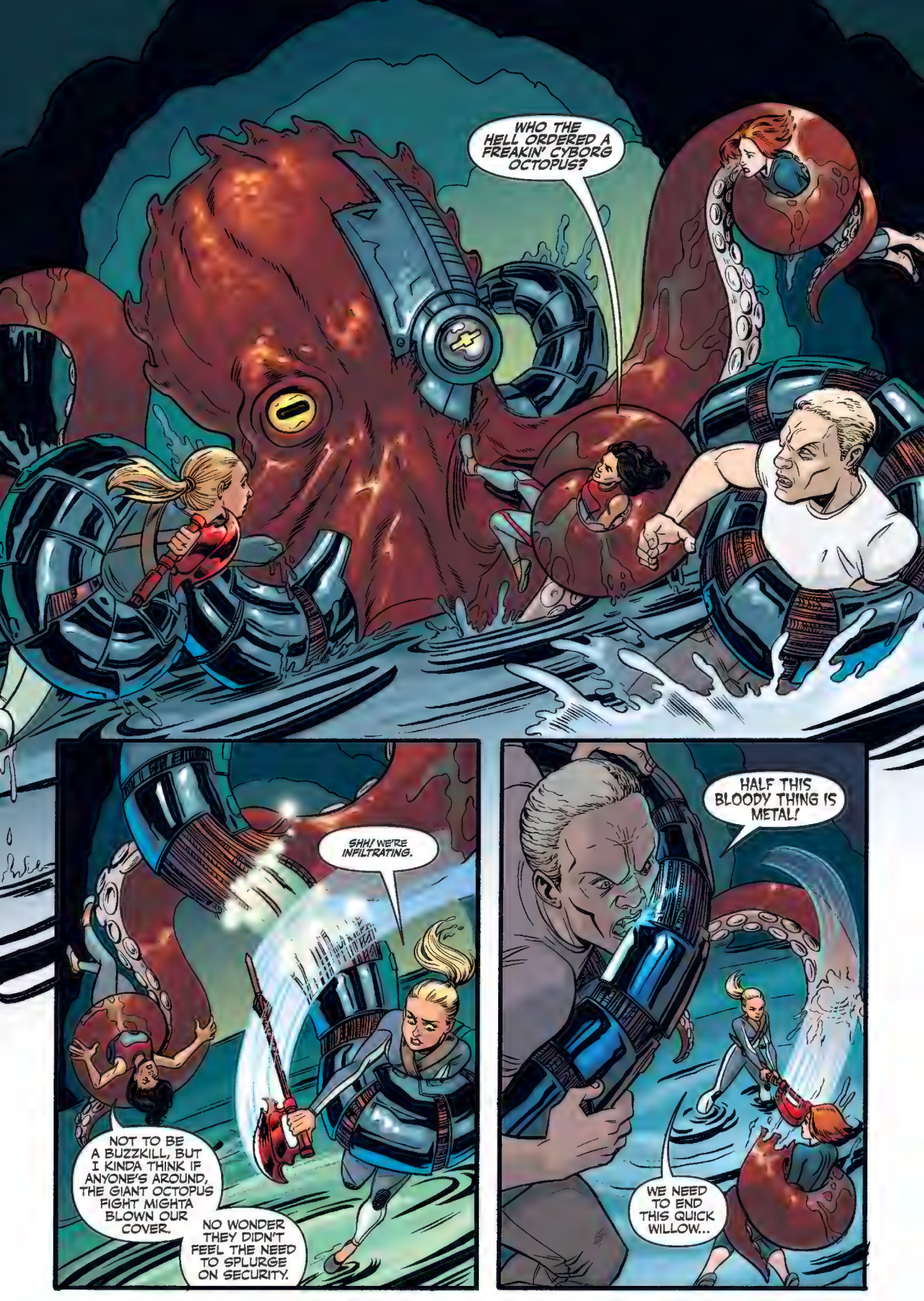
CRIMES AGAINST NATURE

THE SUTRO BATHS WAS A LARGE, PRIVATELY OWNED, PUBLIC, SALTWATER SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX.
BUILT IN 1896, IT BEGAN TO LOSE MONEY IN THE 1960S. IN 1966, IT BURNED DOWN, LEAVING ONLY THE STONE FOUNDATION WALLS...

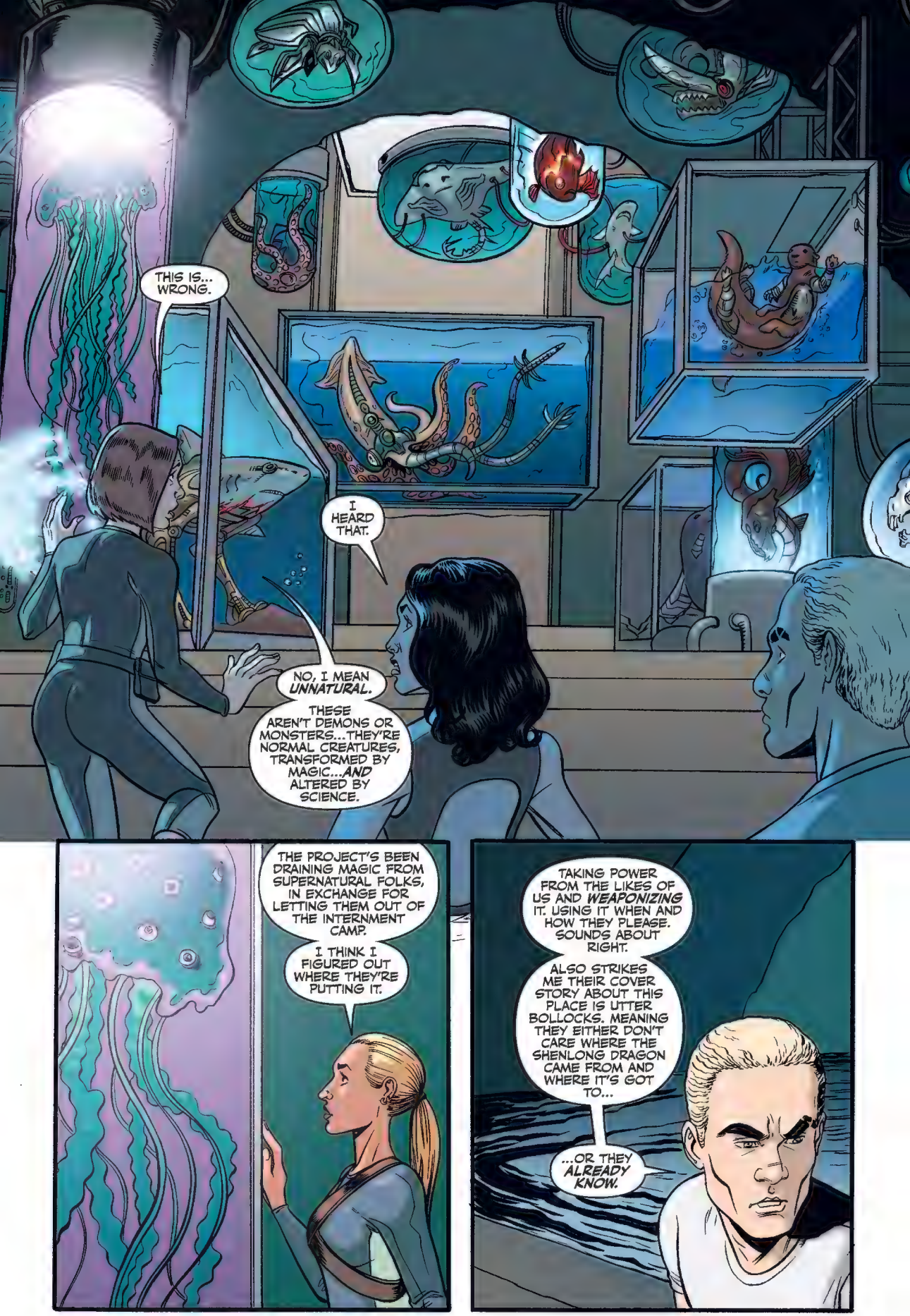
...WHICH ARE ONCE AGAIN IN USE.

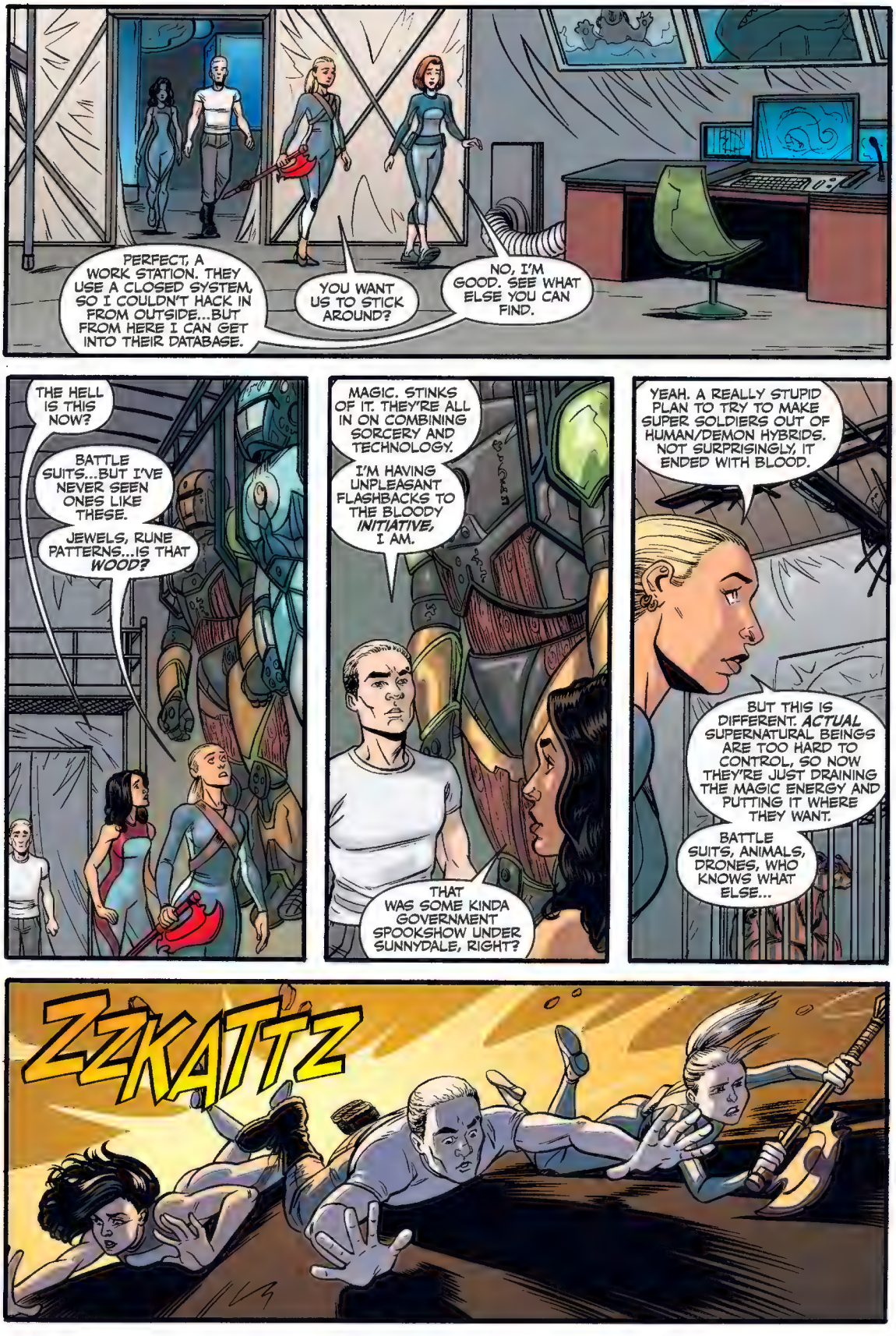


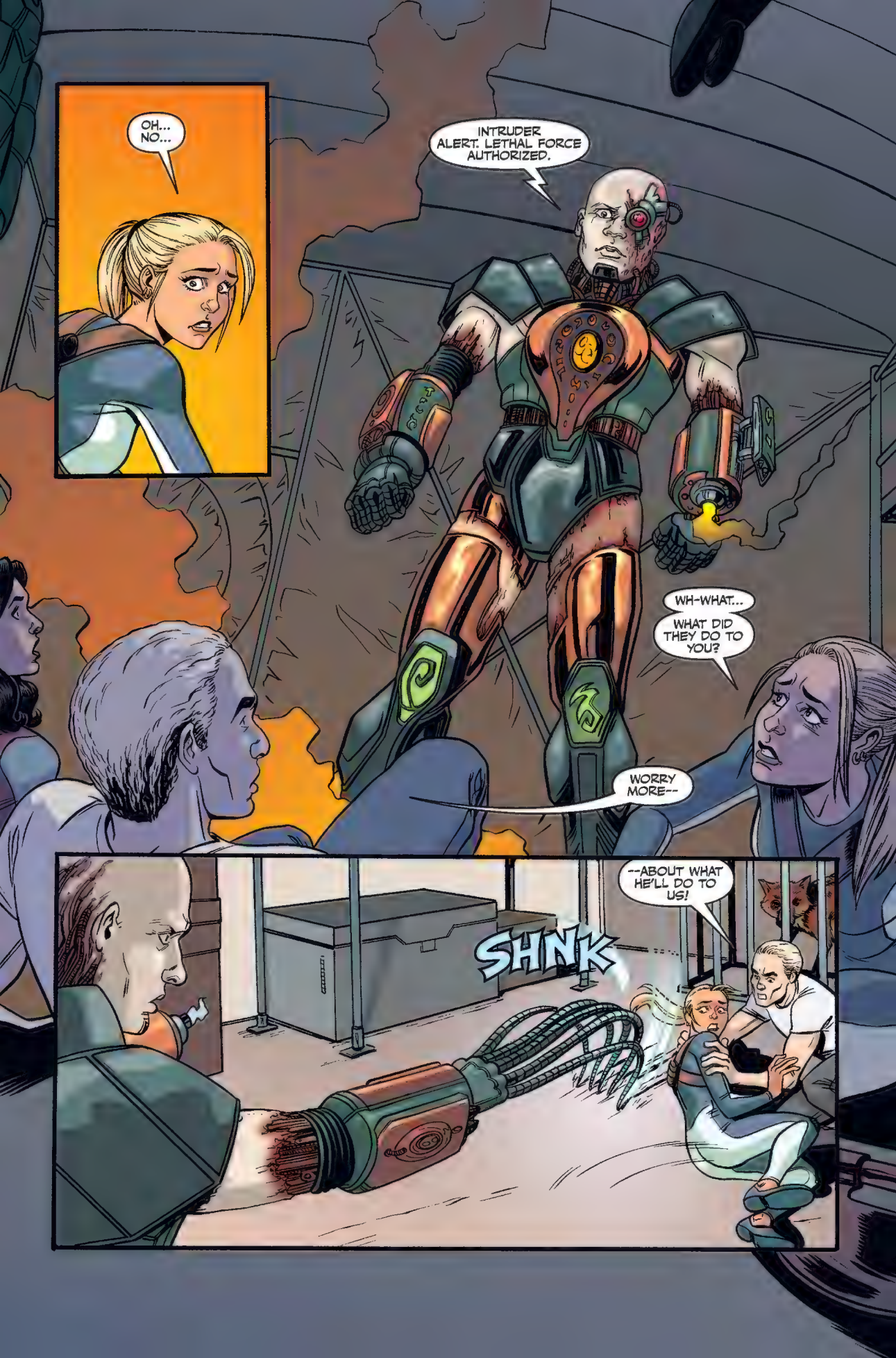



WHO THE HELL ORDERED A FREAKIN' CYBORG OCTOPUS?
SHH! WE'RE INFILTRATING.
NOT TO BE A BUZZKILL, BUT I KINDA THINK IF ANYONE'S AROUND, THE GIANT OCTOPUS FIGHT MIGHTA BLOWN OUR COVER.
NO WONDER THEY DIDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO SPLURGE ON SECURITY.
HALF THIS BLOODY THING IS METAL!
WE NEED TO END THIS QUICK WILLOW...

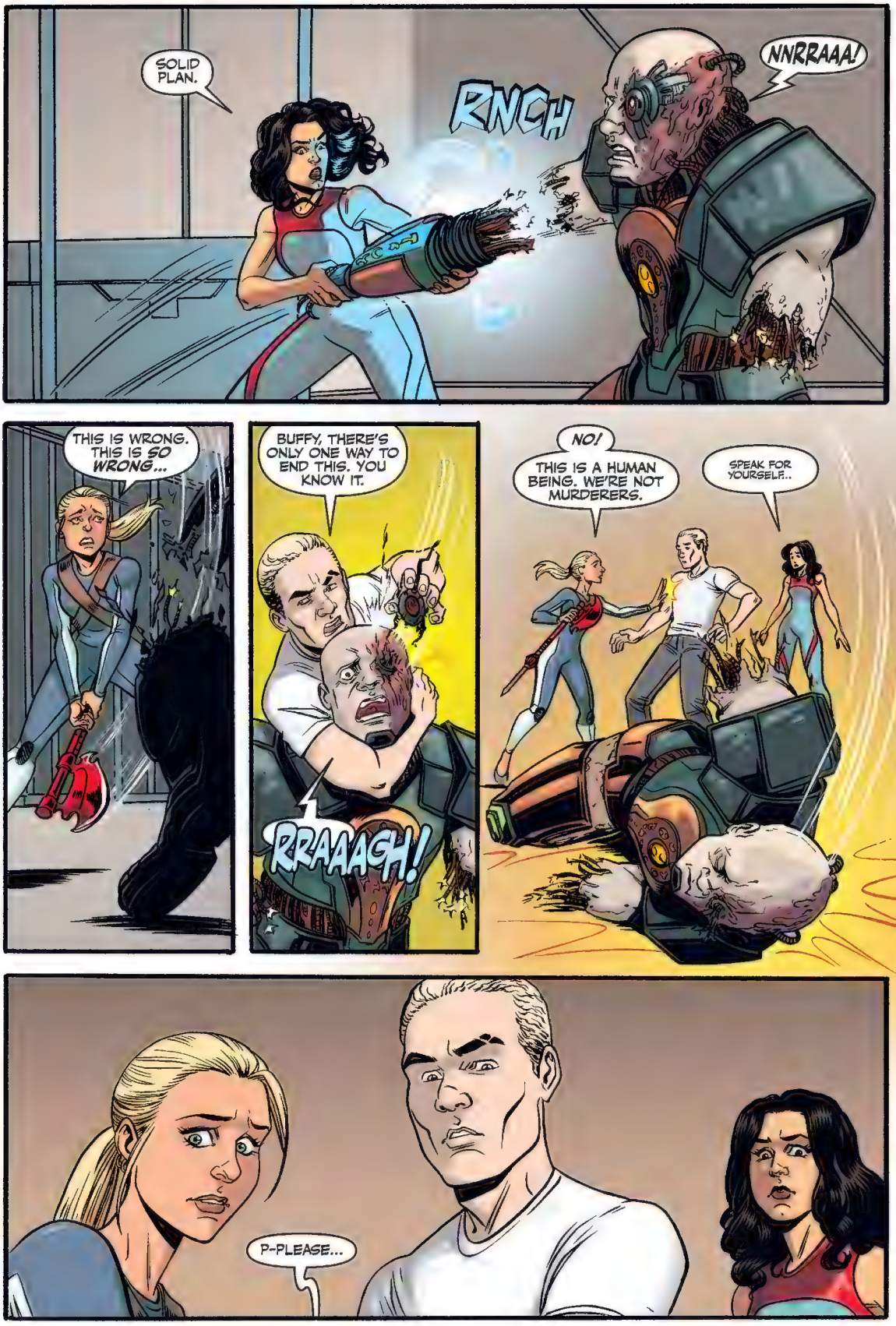
SPLOOGE
THANK YOU. SOME HEAT SHOULD DETER MR. HANDSY HERE...
EWW.
SO NASTY.
AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW MAGIC WON'T SET OFF ALARMS. THAT THING POSITIVELY REEKED OF SORCERY... PROBABLY HOW THEY GREW IT SO BIG.
YOU THINK THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE? IN THE THREE DAYS WE'VE BEEN SCOUTING, I'VE NEVER SEEN MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE COME IN AND OUT.
WE MAY JUST BE IN THE CLEAR. I DON'T SMELL ANY HUMANS BESIDES YOU LOT. QUITE A FEW STRANGE ODORS, THOUGH.
HOLD ON, LET ME LIGHT THINGS UP.
OH, MY GODDESS...

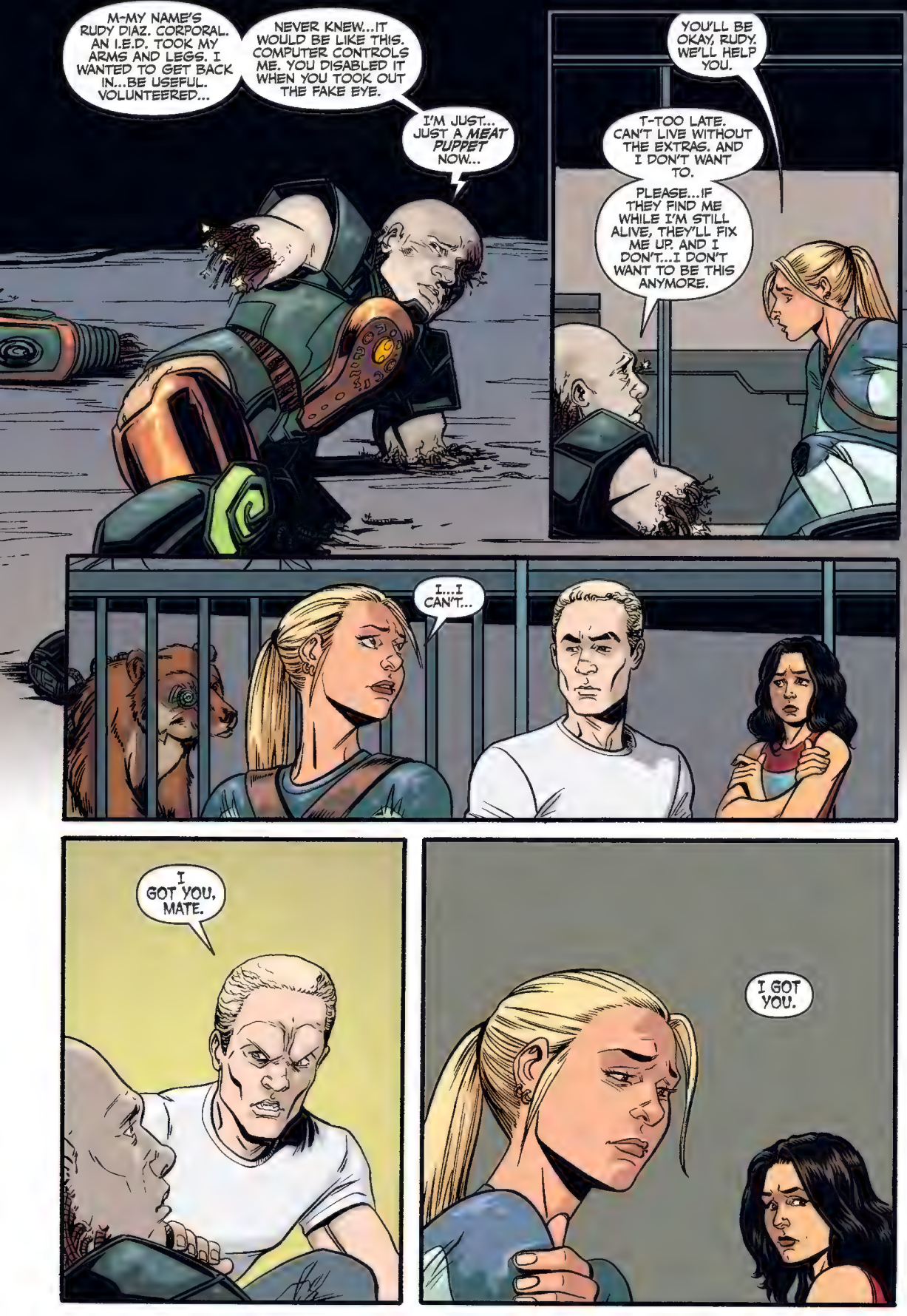

THIS IS... WRONG.
I HEARD THAT.
NO, I MEAN *UNNATURAL*.
THESE AREN'T DEMONS OR MONSTERS...THEY'RE NORMAL CREATURES, TRANSFORMED BY MAGIC...*AND* ALTERED BY SCIENCE.
THE PROJECT'S BEEN DRAINING MAGIC FROM SUPERNATURAL FOLKS, IN EXCHANGE FOR LETTING THEM OUT OF THE INTERNMENT CAMP.
I THINK I FIGURED OUT WHERE THEY'RE PUTTING IT.
TAKING POWER FROM THE LIKES OF US AND *WEAPONIZING* IT. USING IT WHEN AND HOW THEY PLEASE. SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
ALSO STRIKES ME THEIR COVER STORY ABOUT THIS PLACE IS UTTER BOLLOCKS. MEANING THEY EITHER DON'T CARE WHERE THE SHENLONG DRAGON CAME FROM AND WHERE IT'S GOT TO...
...OR THEY *ALREADY KNOW.*

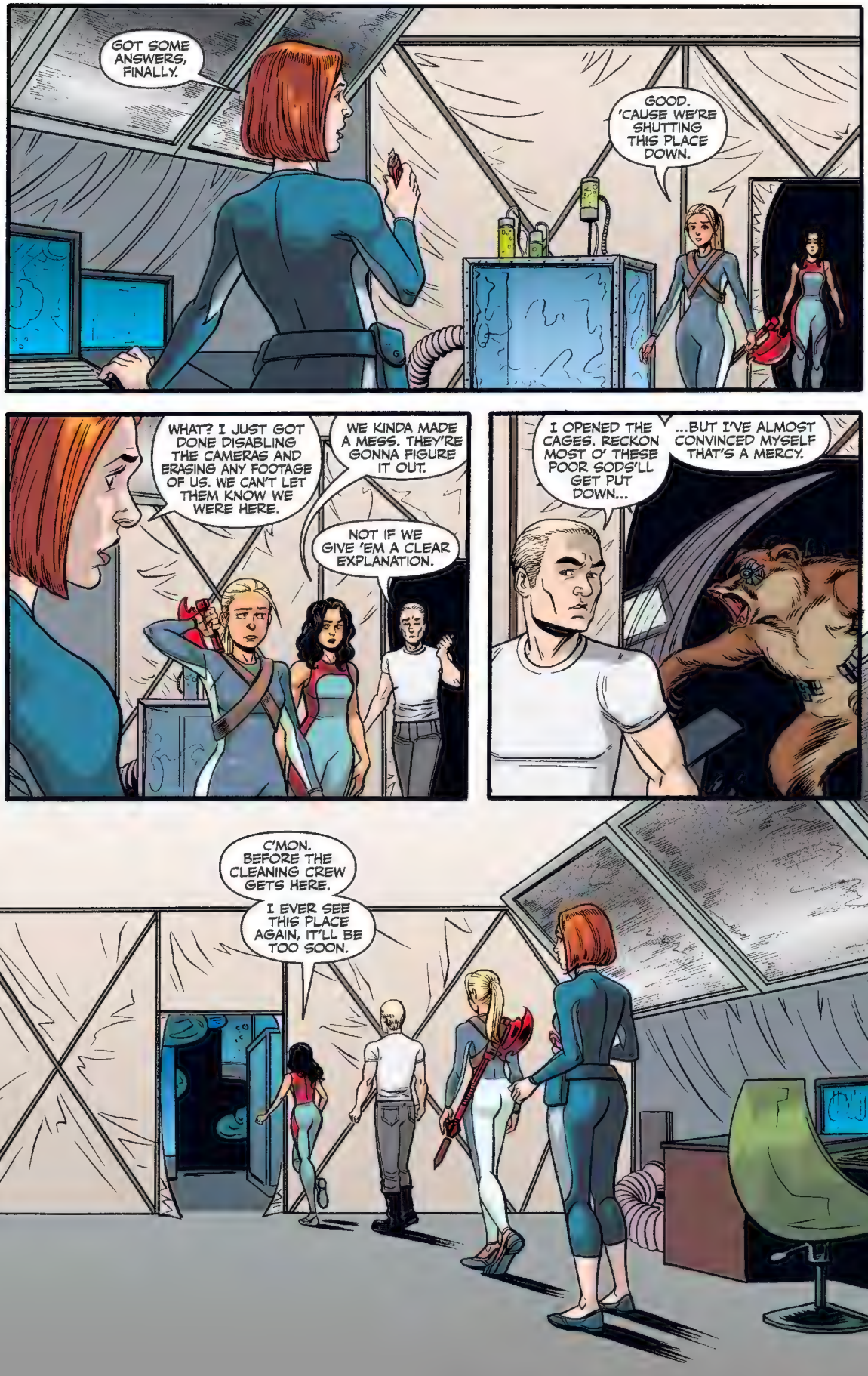

PERFECT, A WORK STATION. THEY USE A CLOSED SYSTEM, SO I COULDN'T HACK IN FROM OUTSIDE...BUT FROM HERE I CAN GET INTO THEIR DATABASE.
YOU WANT US TO STICK AROUND?
NO, I'M GOOD. SEE WHAT ELSE YOU CAN FIND.
THE HELL IS THIS NOW?
BATTLE SUITS...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ONES LIKE THESE.
JEWELS, RUNE PATTERNS...IS THAT *WOOD?*
MAGIC. STINKS OF IT. THEY'RE ALL IN ON COMBINING SORCERY AND TECHNOLOGY.
I'M HAVING UNPLEASANT FLASHBACKS TO THE BLOODY *INITIATIVE,* I AM.
THAT WAS SOME KINDA GOVERNMENT SPOOKSHOW UNDER SUNNYDALE, RIGHT?
YEAH. A REALLY STUPID PLAN TO TRY TO MAKE SUPER SOLDIERS OUT OF HUMAN/DEMON HYBRIDS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT ENDED WITH BLOOD.
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT. *ACTUAL* SUPERNATURAL BEINGS ARE TOO HARD TO CONTROL, SO NOW THEY'RE JUST DRAINING THE MAGIC ENERGY AND PUTTING IT WHERE THEY WANT.
BATTLE SUITS, ANIMALS, DRONES, WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE...
ZZKATTZ

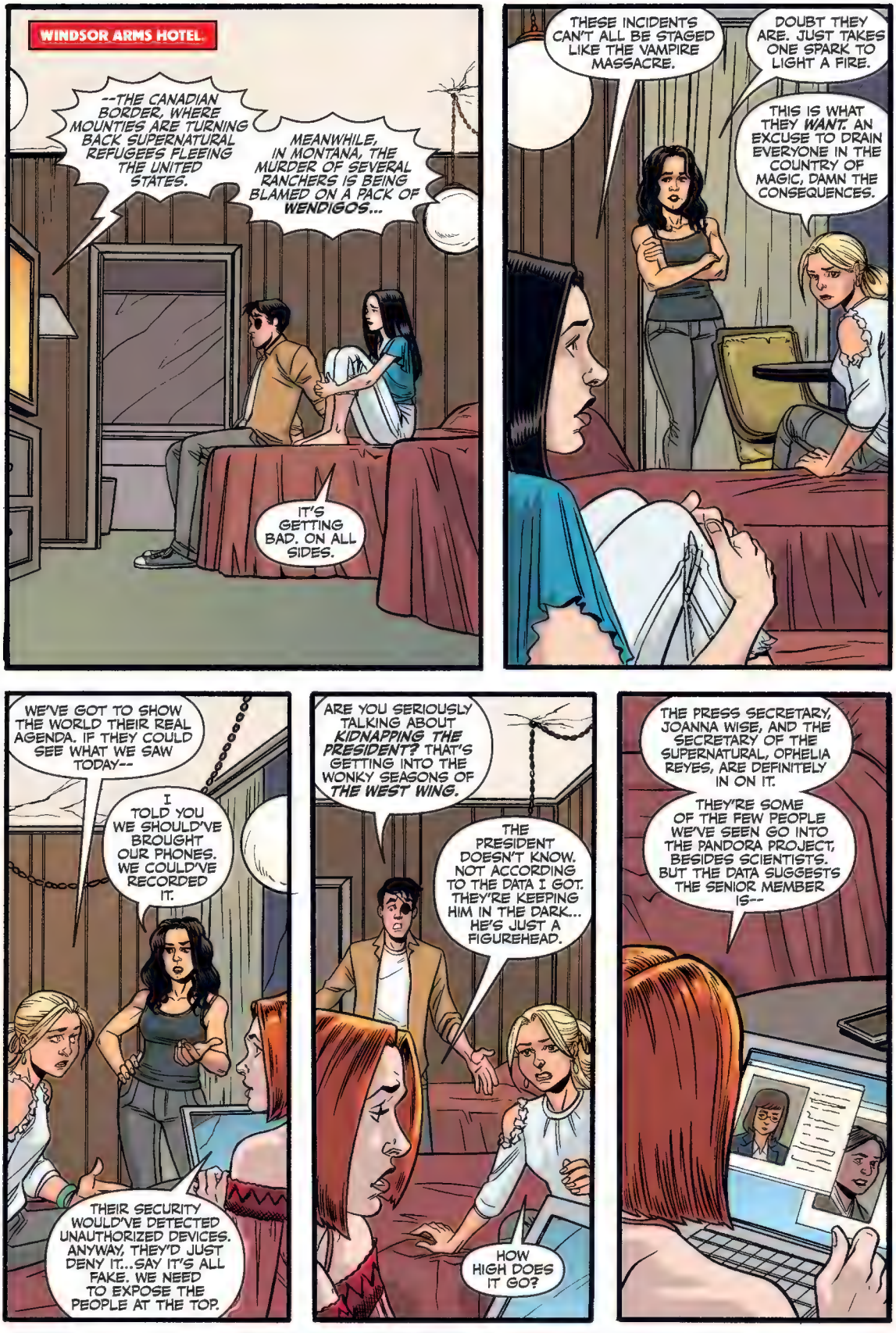

OH... NO...
INTRUDER ALERT. LETHAL FORCE AUTHORIZED.
WH-WHAT...
WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?
WORRY MORE--
--ABOUT WHAT HE'LL DO TO US!
SHNK

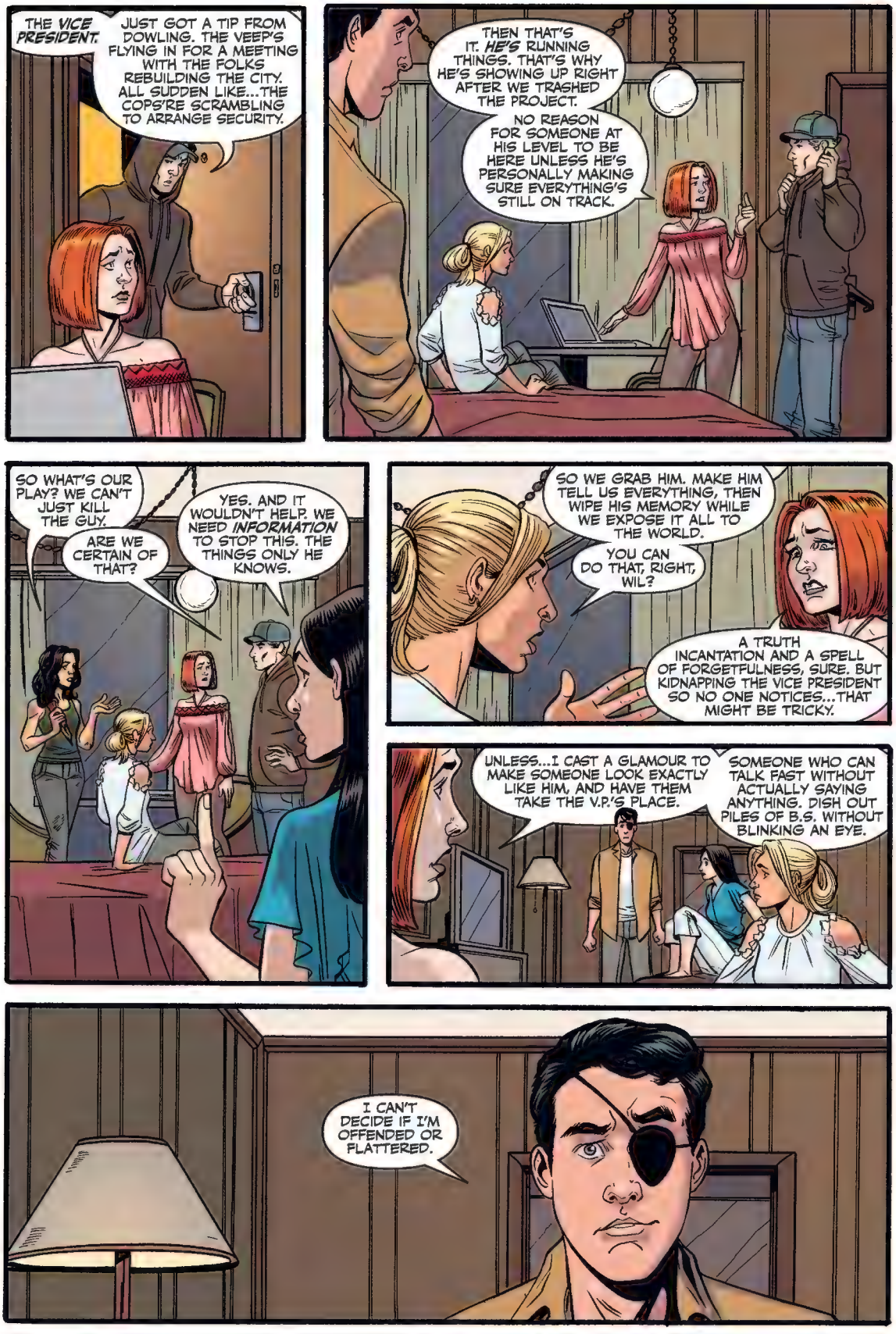
C'MERE.
ANALYZING...
SLAYER-TYPE ENHANCEMENT.
HFF!
VRRR
ADJUSTING.
STEADY ON, SLAYER! THIS THING MIGHT LOOK HUMAN, BUT IT'S A BLOODY MURDER MACHINE NOW!
AT LEAST HACK OFF SOME OF THE ARTIFICIAL BITS!
VRRR

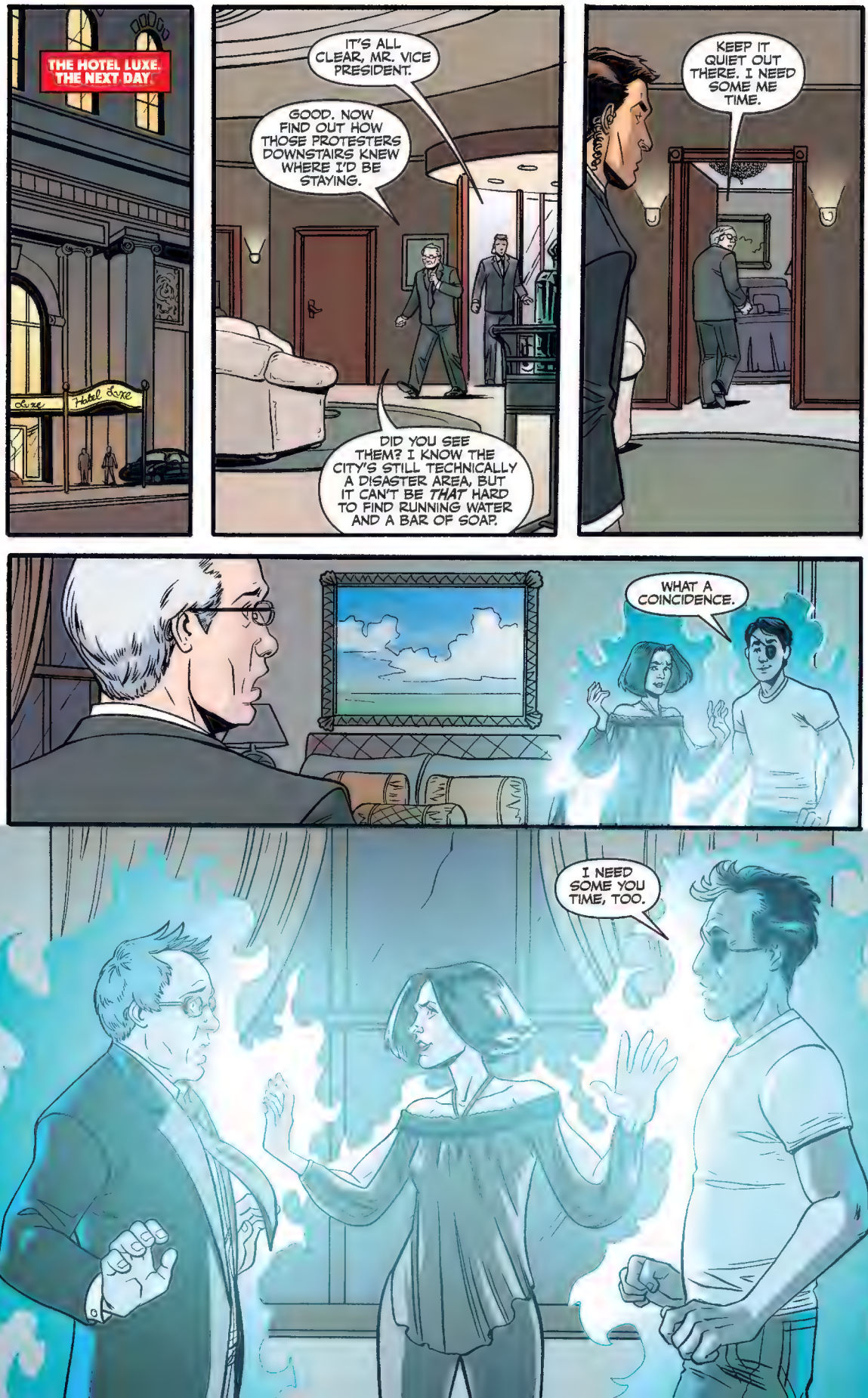

SOLID PLAN.
RNCH
NNRRAAA!
THIS IS WRONG. THIS IS SO WRONG...
BUFFY, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO END THIS. YOU KNOW IT.
RRAAAGH!
NO!
THIS IS A HUMAN BEING. WE'RE NOT MURDERERS.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF...
P-PLEASE...

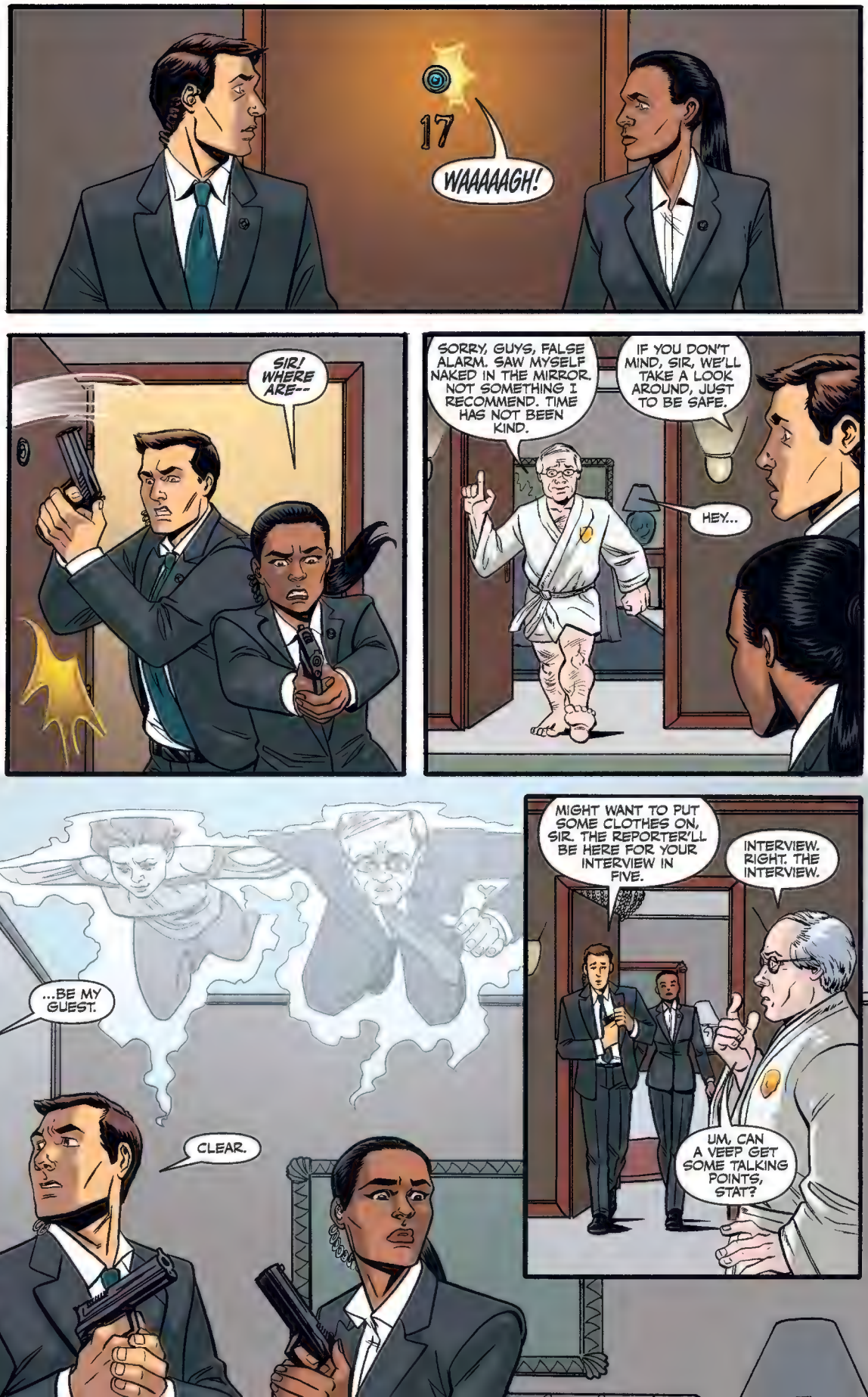

M-MY NAME'S RUDY DIAZ. CORPORAL. AN I.E.D. TOOK MY ARMS AND LEGS. I WANTED TO GET BACK IN...BE USEFUL. VOLUNTEERED...
NEVER KNEW...IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS. COMPUTER CONTROLS ME. YOU DISABLED IT WHEN YOU TOOK OUT THE FAKE EYE.
I'M JUST... JUST A MEAT PUPPET NOW...
YOU'LL BE OKAY, RUDY. WE'LL HELP YOU.
T-TOO LATE. CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THE EXTRAS. AND I DON'T WANT TO.
PLEASE...IF THEY FIND ME WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE, THEY'LL FIX ME UP. AND I DON'T...I DON'T WANT TO BE THIS ANYMORE.
I...I CAN'T...
I GOT YOU, MATE.
I GOT YOU.

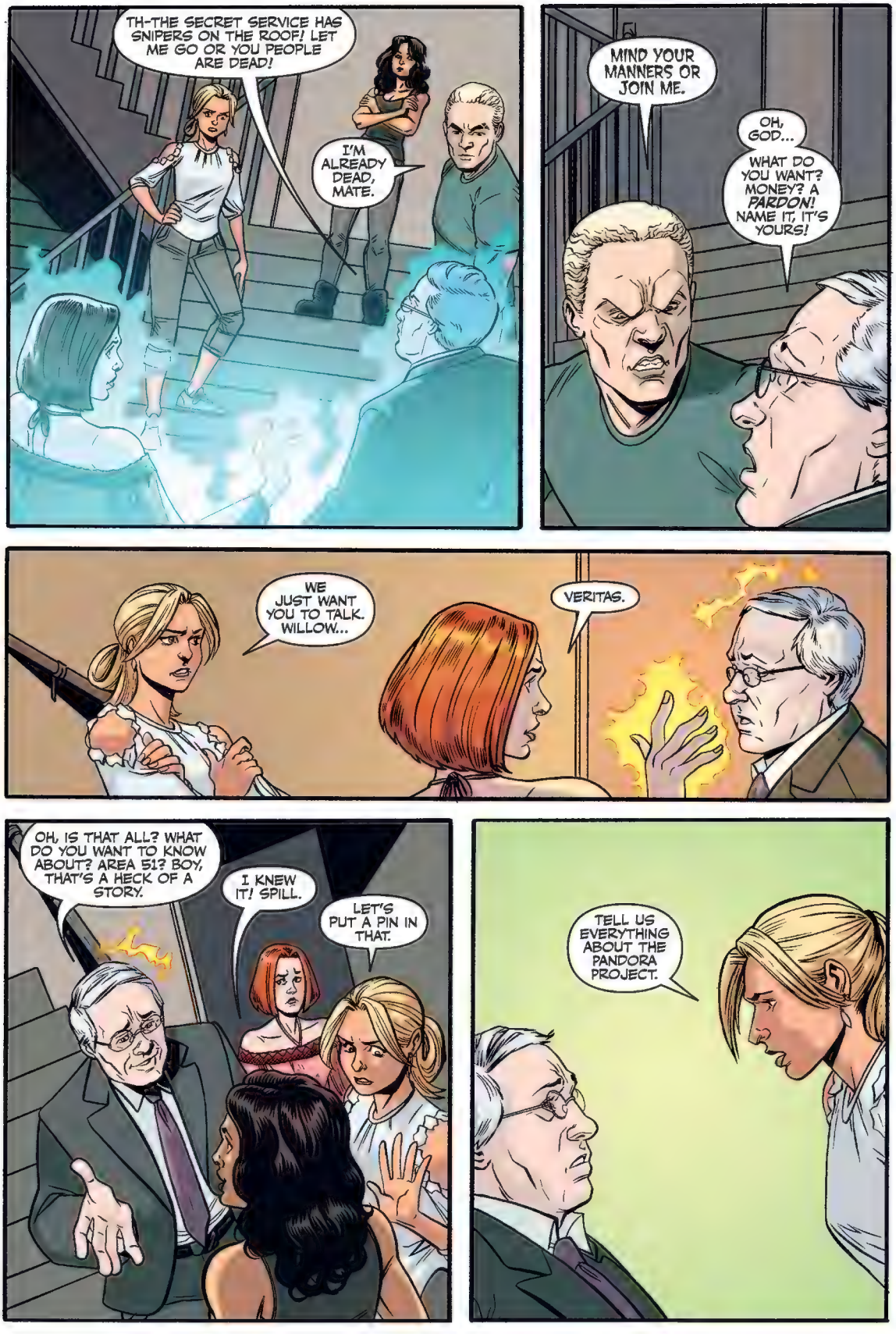

GOT SOME ANSWERS, FINALLY.
GOOD. 'CAUSE WE'RE SHUTTING THIS PLACE DOWN.
WHAT? I JUST GOT DONE DISABLING THE CAMERAS AND ERASING ANY FOOTAGE OF US. WE CAN'T LET THEM KNOW WE WERE HERE.
WE KINDA MADE A MESS. THEY'RE GONNA FIGURE IT OUT.
NOT IF WE GIVE 'EM A CLEAR EXPLANATION.
I OPENED THE CAGES. RECKON MOST O' THESE POOR SODS'LL GET PUT DOWN...
...BUT I'VE ALMOST CONVINCED MYSELF THAT'S A MERCY.
C'MON. BEFORE THE CLEANING CREW GETS HERE.
I EVER SEE THIS PLACE AGAIN, IT'LL BE TOO SOON.

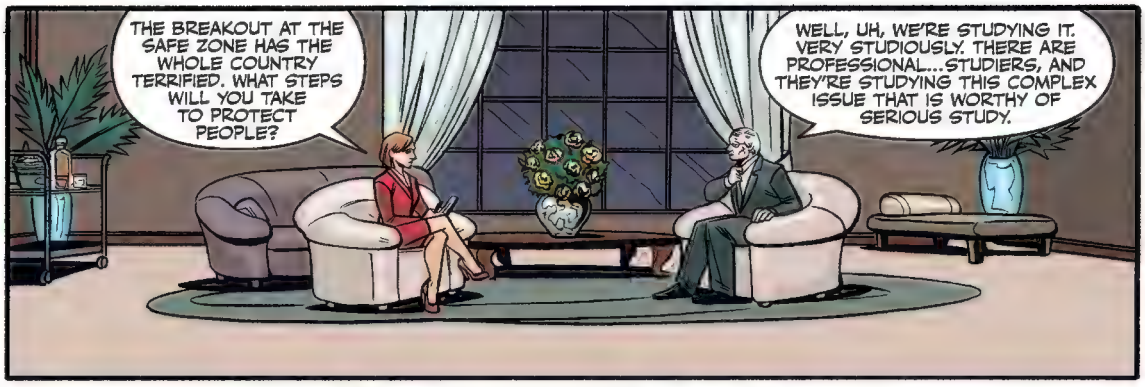

WINDSOR ARMS HOTEL
--THE CANADIAN BORDER, WHERE MOUNTIES ARE TURNING BACK SUPERNATURAL REFUGEES FLEEING THE UNITED STATES.
MEANWHILE, IN MONTANA, THE MURDER OF SEVERAL RANCHERS IS BEING BLAMED ON A PACK OF WENDIGOS...
IT'S GETTING BAD. ON ALL SIDES.
THESE INCIDENTS CAN'T ALL BE STAGED LIKE THE VAMPIRE MASSACRE.
DOUBT THEY ARE. JUST TAKES ONE SPARK TO LIGHT A FIRE.
THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT. AN EXCUSE TO DRAIN EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY OF MAGIC, DAMN THE CONSEQUENCES.
WE'VE GOT TO SHOW THE WORLD THEIR REAL AGENDA. IF THEY COULD SEE WHAT WE SAW TODAY--
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE BROUGHT OUR PHONES. WE COULD'VE RECORDED IT.
THEIR SECURITY WOULD'VE DETECTED UNAUTHORIZED DEVICES. ANYWAY, THEY'D JUST DENY IT...SAY IT'S ALL FAKE. WE NEED TO EXPOSE THE PEOPLE AT THE TOP.
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TALKING ABOUT KIDNAPPING THE PRESIDENT? THAT'S GETTING INTO THE WONKY SEASONS OF THE WEST WING.
THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T KNOW. NOT ACCORDING TO THE DATA I GOT. THEY'RE KEEPING HIM IN THE DARK... HE'S JUST A FIGUREHEAD.
HOW HIGH DOES IT GO?
THE PRESS SECRETARY, JOANNA WISE, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE SUPERNATURAL, OPHELIA REYES, ARE DEFINITELY IN ON IT.
THEY'RE SOME OF THE FEW PEOPLE WE'VE SEEN GO INTO THE PANDORA PROJECT, BESIDES SCIENTISTS. BUT THE DATA SUGGESTS THE SENIOR MEMBER IS--


THE VICE PRESIDENT.
JUST GOT A TIP FROM DOWLING. THE VEEP'S FLYING IN FOR A MEETING WITH THE FOLKS REBUILDING THE CITY. ALL SUDDEN LIKE...THE COPS'RE SCRAMBLING TO ARRANGE SECURITY.
THEN THAT'S IT. HE'S RUNNING THINGS. THAT'S WHY HE'S SHOWING UP RIGHT AFTER WE TRASHED THE PROJECT.
NO REASON FOR SOMEONE AT HIS LEVEL TO BE HERE UNLESS HE'S PERSONALLY MAKING SURE EVERYTHING'S STILL ON TRACK.
SO WHAT'S OUR PLAY? WE CAN'T JUST KILL THE GUY.
ARE WE CERTAIN OF THAT?
YES. AND IT WOULDN'T HELP. WE NEED INFORMATION TO STOP THIS. THE THINGS ONLY HE KNOWS.
SO WE GRAB HIM. MAKE HIM TELL US EVERYTHING, THEN WIPE HIS MEMORY WHILE WE EXPOSE IT ALL TO THE WORLD.
YOU CAN DO THAT, RIGHT, WIL?
A TRUTH INCANTATION AND A SPELL OF FORGETFULNESS, SURE. BUT KIDNAPPING THE VICE PRESIDENT SO NO ONE NOTICES...THAT MIGHT BE TRICKY.
UNLESS...I CAST A GLAMOUR TO MAKE SOMEONE LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HIM, AND HAVE THEM TAKE THE V.P.'S PLACE.
SOMEONE WHO CAN TALK FAST WITHOUT ACTUALLY SAYING ANYTHING. DISH OUT PILES OF B.S. WITHOUT BLINKING AN EYE.
I CAN'T DECIDE IF I'M OFFENDED OR FLATTERED.

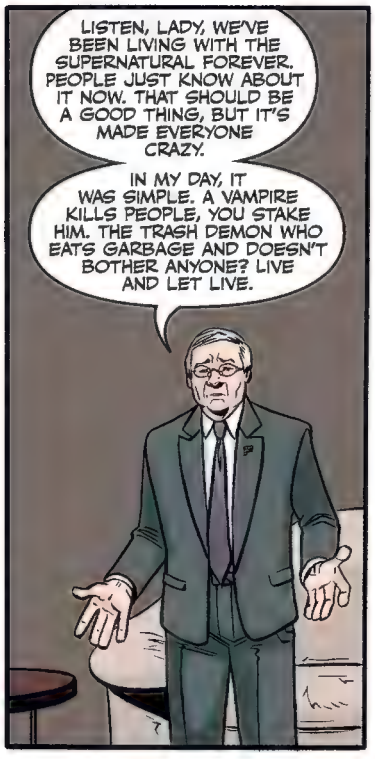

THE HOTEL LUXE, THE NEXT DAY.
Luxe Hotel Luxe
IT'S ALL CLEAR, MR. VICE PRESIDENT.
GOOD. NOW FIND OUT HOW THOSE PROTESTERS DOWNSTAIRS KNEW WHERE I'D BE STAYING.
DID YOU SEE THEM? I KNOW THE CITY'S STILL TECHNICALLY A DISASTER AREA, BUT IT CAN'T BE *THAT* HARD TO FIND RUNNING WATER AND A BAR OF SOAP.
KEEP IT QUIET OUT THERE. I NEED SOME ME TIME.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
I NEED SOME YOU TIME, TOO.


17
WAAAAAGH!
SIR! WHERE ARE--
SORRY, GUYS, FALSE ALARM. SAW MYSELF NAKED IN THE MIRROR. NOT SOMETHING I RECOMMEND. TIME HAS NOT BEEN KIND.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, SIR, WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND, JUST TO BE SAFE.
HEY...
...BE MY GUEST.
CLEAR.
MIGHT WANT TO PUT SOME CLOTHES ON, SIR. THE REPORTER'LL BE HERE FOR YOUR INTERVIEW IN FIVE.
INTERVIEW. RIGHT. THE INTERVIEW.
UM, CAN A VEEP GET SOME TALKING POINTS, STAT?

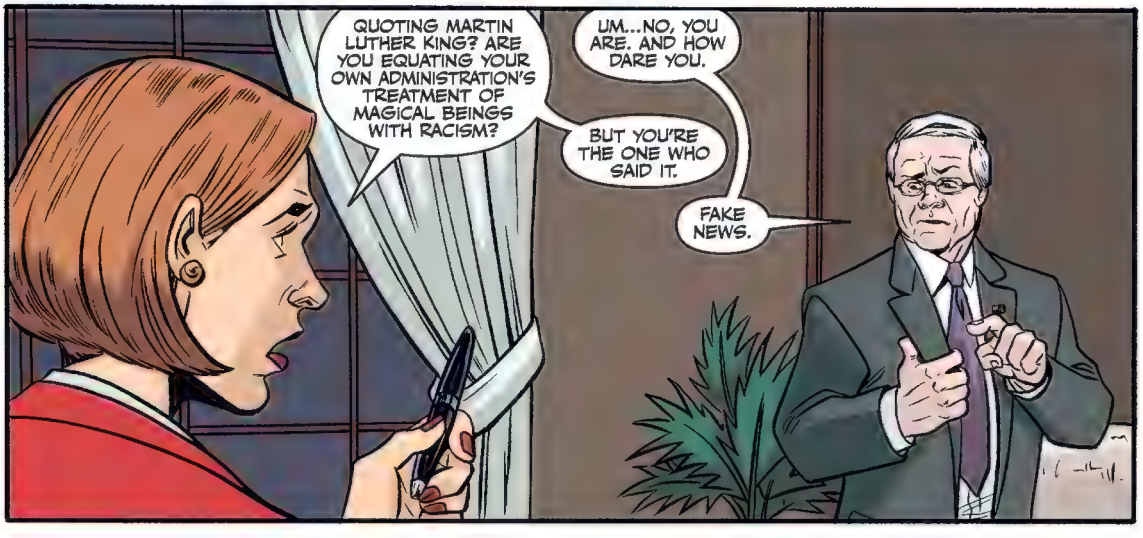

TH-THE SECRET SERVICE HAS SNIPERS ON THE ROOF! LET ME GO OR YOU PEOPLE ARE DEAD!
I'M ALREADY DEAD, MATE.
MIND YOUR MANNERS OR JOIN ME.
OH, GOD...
WHAT DO YOU WANT? MONEY? A PARDON! NAME IT, IT'S YOURS!
WE JUST WANT YOU TO TALK. WILLOW...
VERITAS.
OH, IS THAT ALL? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT? AREA 51? BOY, THAT'S A HECK OF A STORY.
I KNEW IT! SPILL.
LET'S PUT A PIN IN THAT.
TELL US EVERYTHING ABOUT THE PANDORA PROJECT.

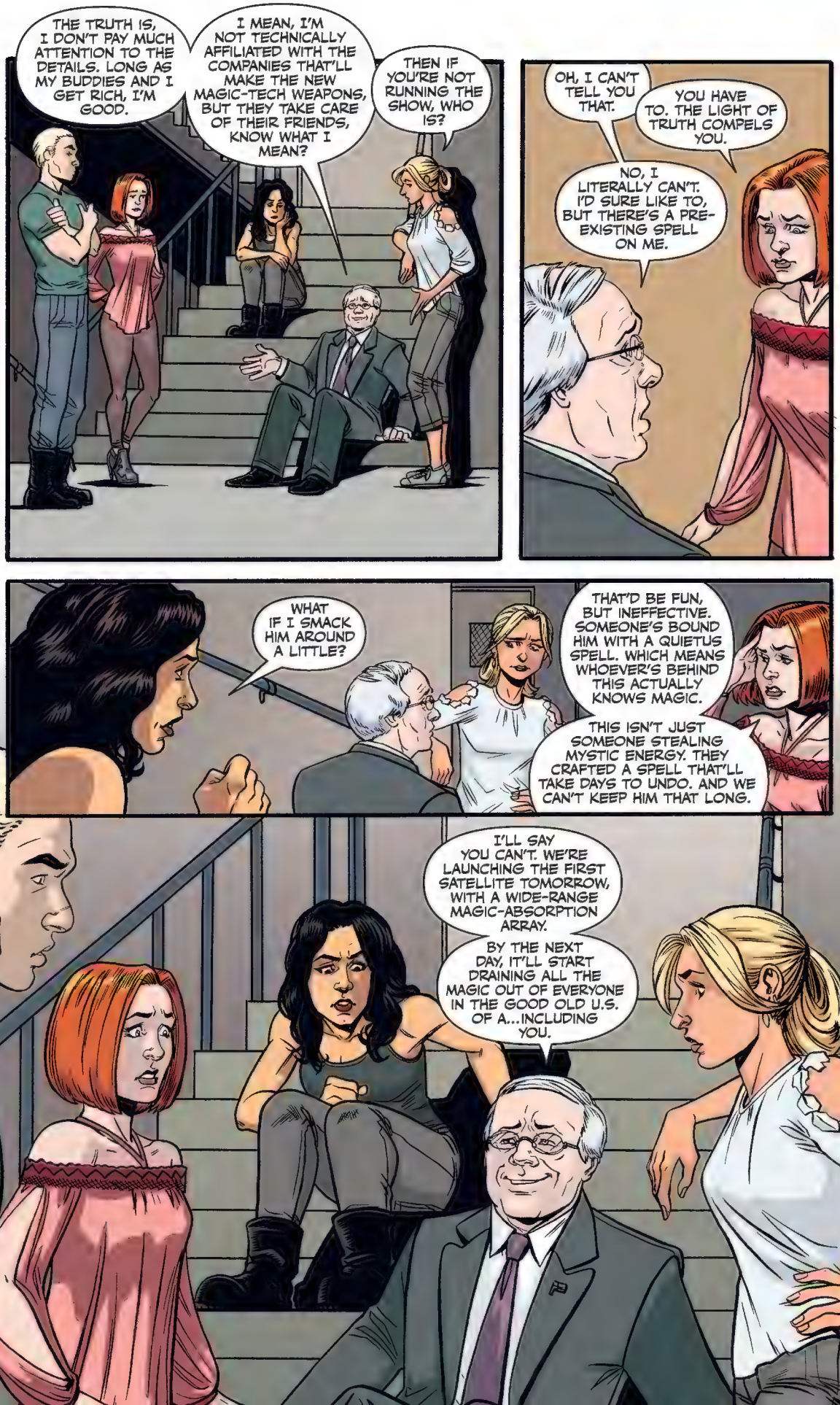

THE BREAKOUT AT THE SAFE ZONE HAS THE WHOLE COUNTRY TERRIFIED. WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PROTECT PEOPLE?
WELL, UH, WE'RE STUDYING IT. VERY STUDIOUSLY. THERE ARE PROFESSIONAL...STUDIERS, AND THEY'RE STUDYING THIS COMPLEX ISSUE THAT IS WORTHY OF SERIOUS STUDY.

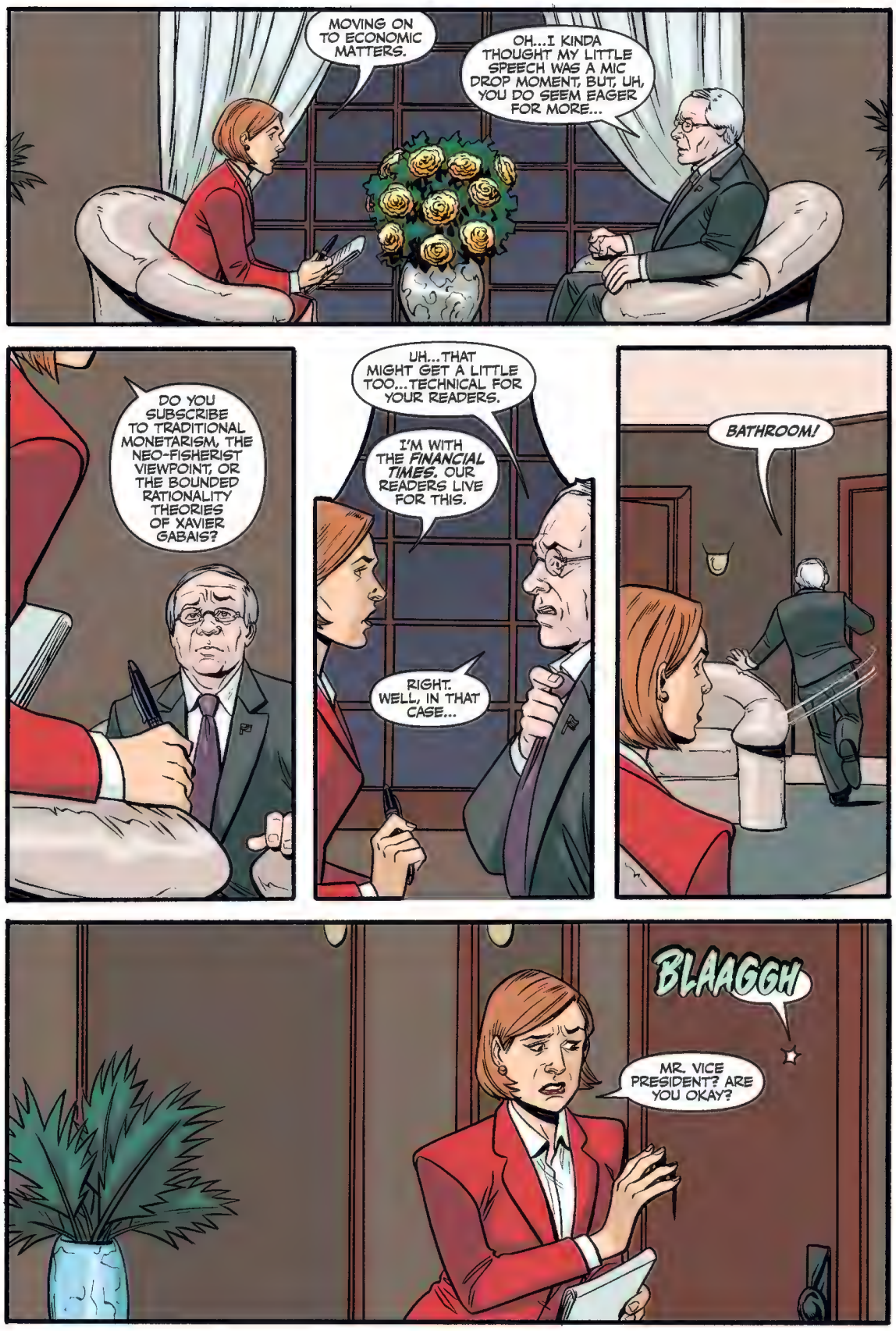
IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR US AND SUPERNATURAL BEINGS TO COEXIST IN THE SAME WORLD?


LISTEN, LADY, WE'VE BEEN LIVING WITH THE SUPERNATURAL FOREVER. PEOPLE JUST KNOW ABOUT IT NOW. THAT SHOULD BE A GOOD THING, BUT IT'S MADE EVERYONE CRAZY.
IN MY DAY, IT WAS SIMPLE. A VAMPIRE KILLS PEOPLE, YOU STAKE HIM. THE TRASH DEMON WHO EATS GARBAGE AND DOESN'T BOTHER ANYONE? LIVE AND LET LIVE.

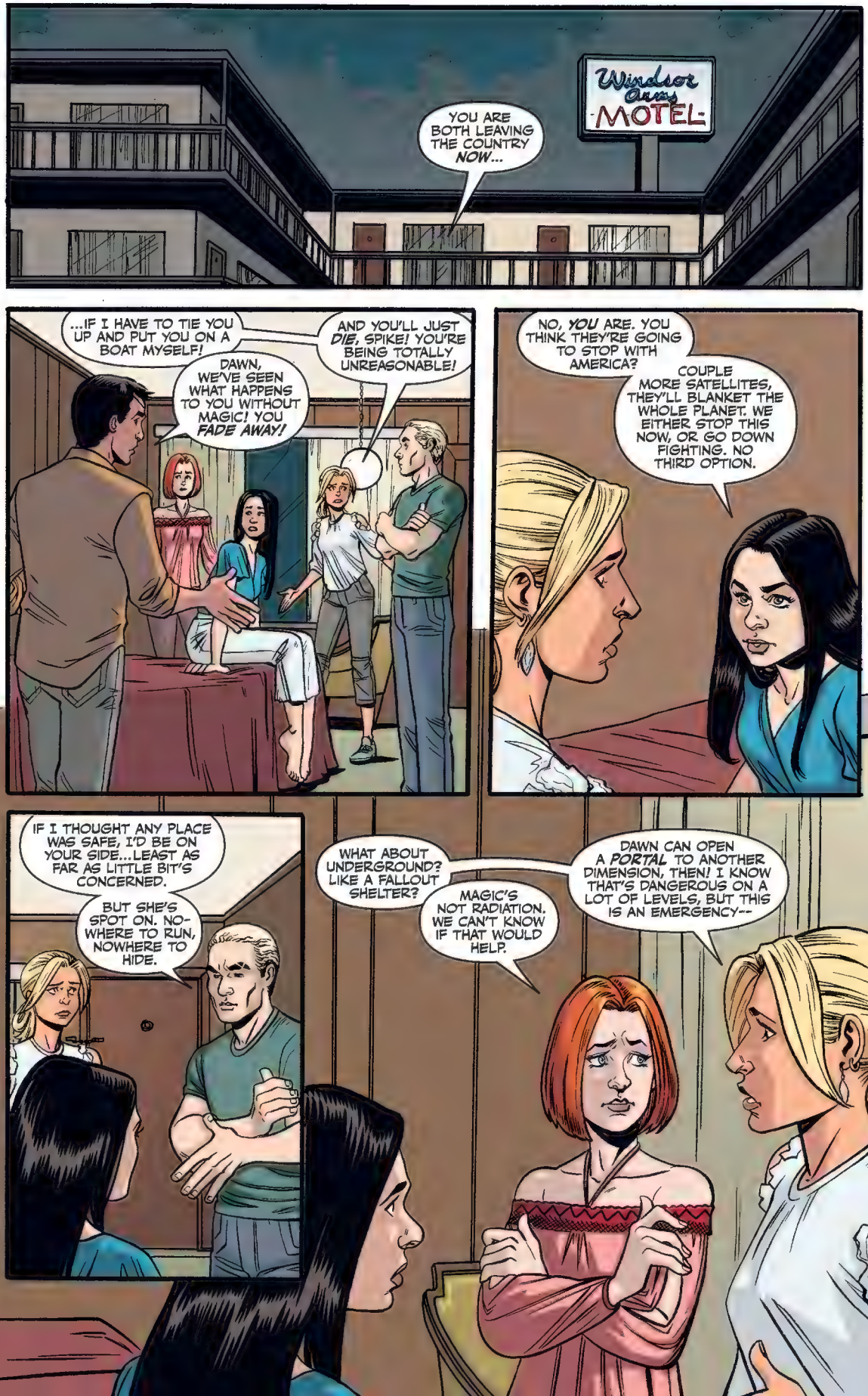
WHY DO WE HAVE TO LABEL EACH OTHER?
WHY CAN'T WE JUST AGREE TO JUDGE EVERYONE NOT BY THE SUPER OF THEIR NATURE, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER?

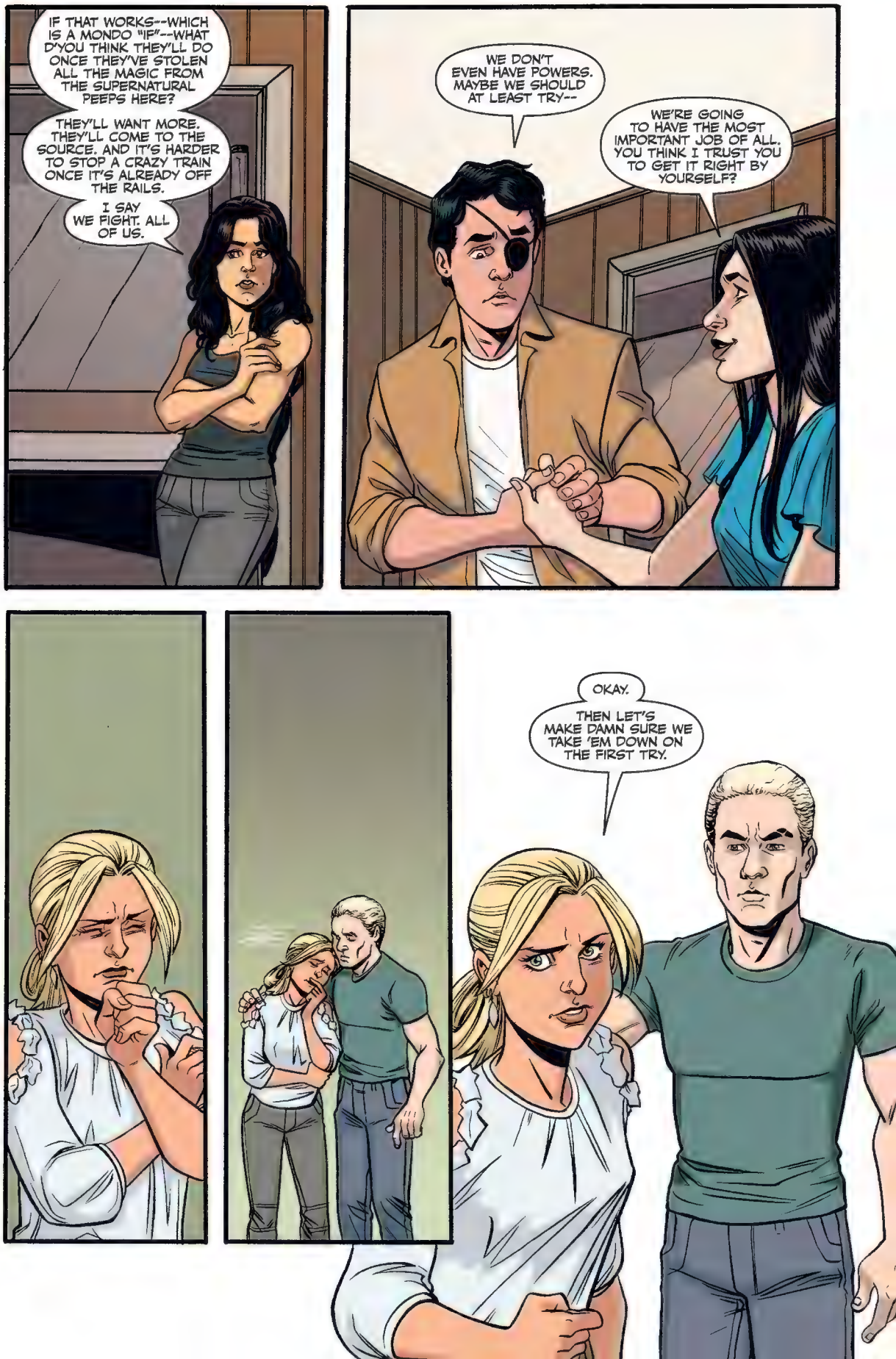

QUOTING MARTIN LUTHER KING? ARE YOU EQUATING YOUR OWN ADMINISTRATION'S TREATMENT OF MAGICAL BEINGS WITH RACISM?
UM...NO, YOU ARE. AND HOW DARE YOU.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT.
FAKE NEWS.

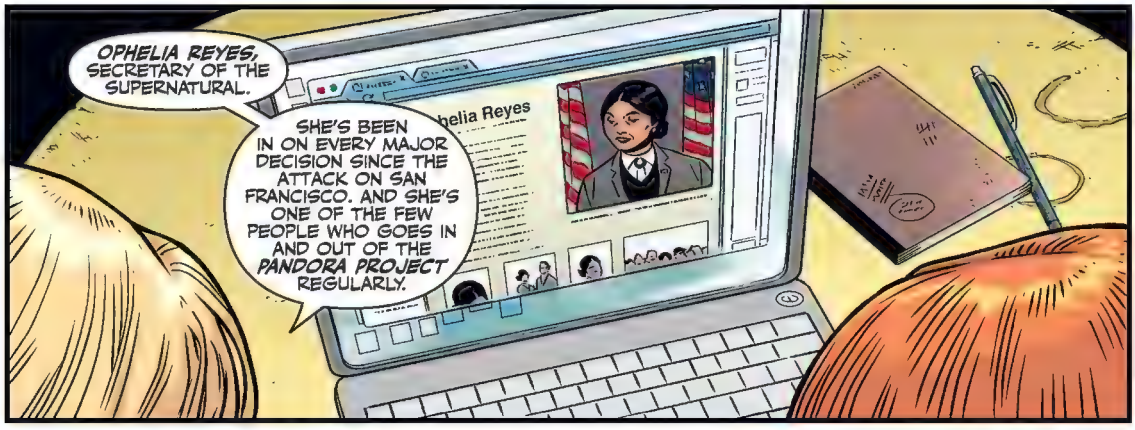

THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS. LONG AS MY BUDDIES AND I GET RICH, I'M GOOD.
I MEAN, I'M NOT TECHNICALLY AFFILIATED WITH THE COMPANIES THAT'LL MAKE THE NEW MAGIC-TECH WEAPONS, BUT THEY TAKE CARE OF THEIR FRIENDS, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
THEN IF YOU'RE NOT RUNNING THE SHOW, WHO IS?
OH, I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.
YOU HAVE TO. THE LIGHT OF TRUTH COMPELS YOU.
NO, I LITERALLY CAN'T. I'D SURE LIKE TO, BUT THERE'S A PRE-EXISTING SPELL ON ME.
WHAT IF I SMACK HIM AROUND A LITTLE?
THAT'D BE FUN, BUT INEFFECTIVE. SOMEONE'S BOUND HIM WITH A QUIETUS SPELL. WHICH MEANS WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS ACTUALLY KNOWS MAGIC.
THIS ISN'T JUST SOMEONE STEALING MYSTIC ENERGY. THEY CRAFTED A SPELL THAT'LL TAKE DAYS TO UNDO. AND WE CAN'T KEEP HIM THAT LONG.
I'LL SAY YOU CAN'T. WE'RE LAUNCHING THE FIRST SATELLITE TOMORROW, WITH A WIDE-RANGE MAGIC-ABSORPTION ARRAY.
BY THE NEXT DAY, IT'LL START DRAINING ALL THE MAGIC OUT OF EVERYONE IN THE GOOD OLD U.S. OF A...INCLUDING YOU.

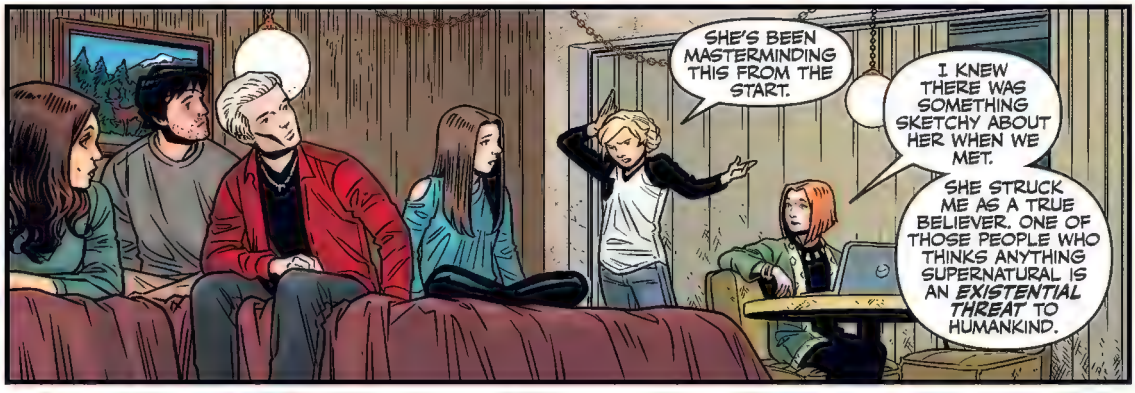

MOVING ON TO ECONOMIC MATTERS.
OH...I KINDA THOUGHT MY LITTLE SPEECH WAS A MIC DROP MOMENT, BUT, UH, YOU DO SEEM EAGER FOR MORE...
DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO TRADITIONAL MONETARISM, THE NEO-FISHERIST VIEWPOINT, OR THE BOUNDED RATIONALITY THEORIES OF XAVIER GABAIS?
UH...THAT MIGHT GET A LITTLE TOO...TECHNICAL FOR YOUR READERS.
I'M WITH THE *FINANCIAL TIMES*. OUR READERS LIVE FOR THIS.
RIGHT. WELL, IN THAT CASE...
BATHROOM!
BLAAGGH
MR. VICE PRESIDENT? ARE YOU OKAY?

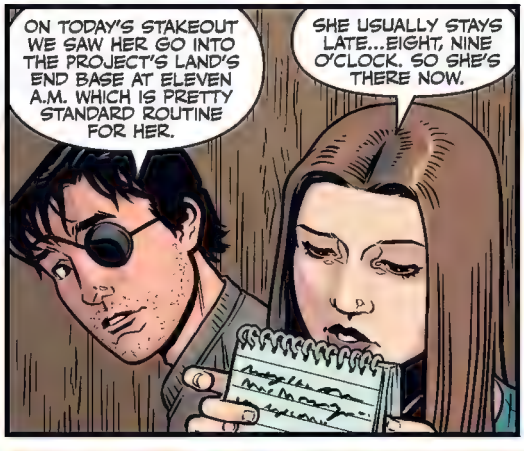
SOMETHING I ATE ON THE PLANE! LET'S PICK THIS UP LATER!
HUUAAKK
I CALLED YOUR SECURITY!
NO, DON'T. I DON'T WANT THEM TO SEE ME LIKE THIS!
SIR, WE'RE COMING IN!
BRAKSH
UHH...
DID I EAT THE GOVERNOR OF COLORADO'S BROWNIES AGAIN?

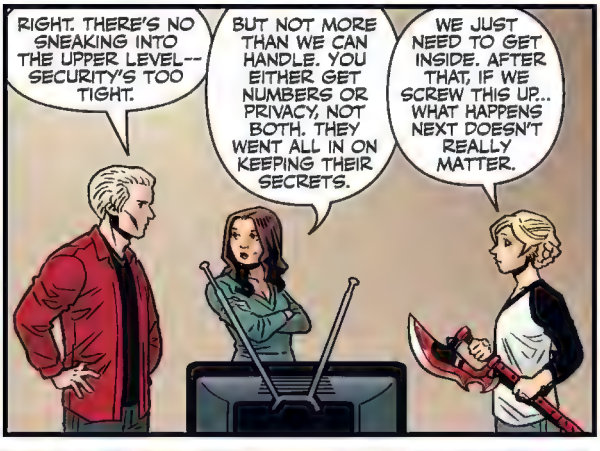

Windsor Arms MOTEL
YOU ARE BOTH LEAVING THE COUNTRY NOW...
...IF I HAVE TO TIE YOU UP AND PUT YOU ON A BOAT MYSELF!
DAWN, WE'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU WITHOUT MAGIC! YOU FADE AWAY!
AND YOU'LL JUST DIE, SPIKE! YOU'RE BEING TOTALLY UNREASONABLE!
NO, YOU ARE. YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING TO STOP WITH AMERICA?
COUPLE MORE SATELLITES, THEY'LL BLANKET THE WHOLE PLANET. WE EITHER STOP THIS NOW, OR GO DOWN FIGHTING. NO THIRD OPTION.
IF I THOUGHT ANY PLACE WAS SAFE, I'D BE ON YOUR SIDE...LEAST AS FAR AS LITTLE BIT'S CONCERNED.
BUT SHE'S SPOT ON. NO-WHERE TO RUN, NOWHERE TO HIDE.
WHAT ABOUT UNDERGROUND? LIKE A FALLOUT SHELTER?
MAGIC'S NOT RADIATION. WE CAN'T KNOW IF THAT WOULD HELP.
DAWN CAN OPEN A PORTAL TO ANOTHER DIMENSION, THEN! I KNOW THAT'S DANGEROUS ON A LOT OF LEVELS, BUT THIS IS AN EMERGENCY--


IF THAT WORKS--WHICH IS A MONDO "IF"--WHAT D'YOU THINK THEY'LL DO ONCE THEY'VE STOLEN ALL THE MAGIC FROM THE SUPERNATURAL PEEPS HERE?
THEY'LL WANT MORE. THEY'LL COME TO THE SOURCE. AND IT'S HARDER TO STOP A CRAZY TRAIN ONCE IT'S ALREADY OFF THE RAILS.
I SAY WE FIGHT. ALL OF US.
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE POWERS. MAYBE WE SHOULD AT LEAST TRY--
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB OF ALL. YOU THINK I TRUST YOU TO GET IT RIGHT BY YOURSELF?
OKAY.
THEN LET'S MAKE DAMN SURE WE TAKE 'EM DOWN ON THE FIRST TRY.

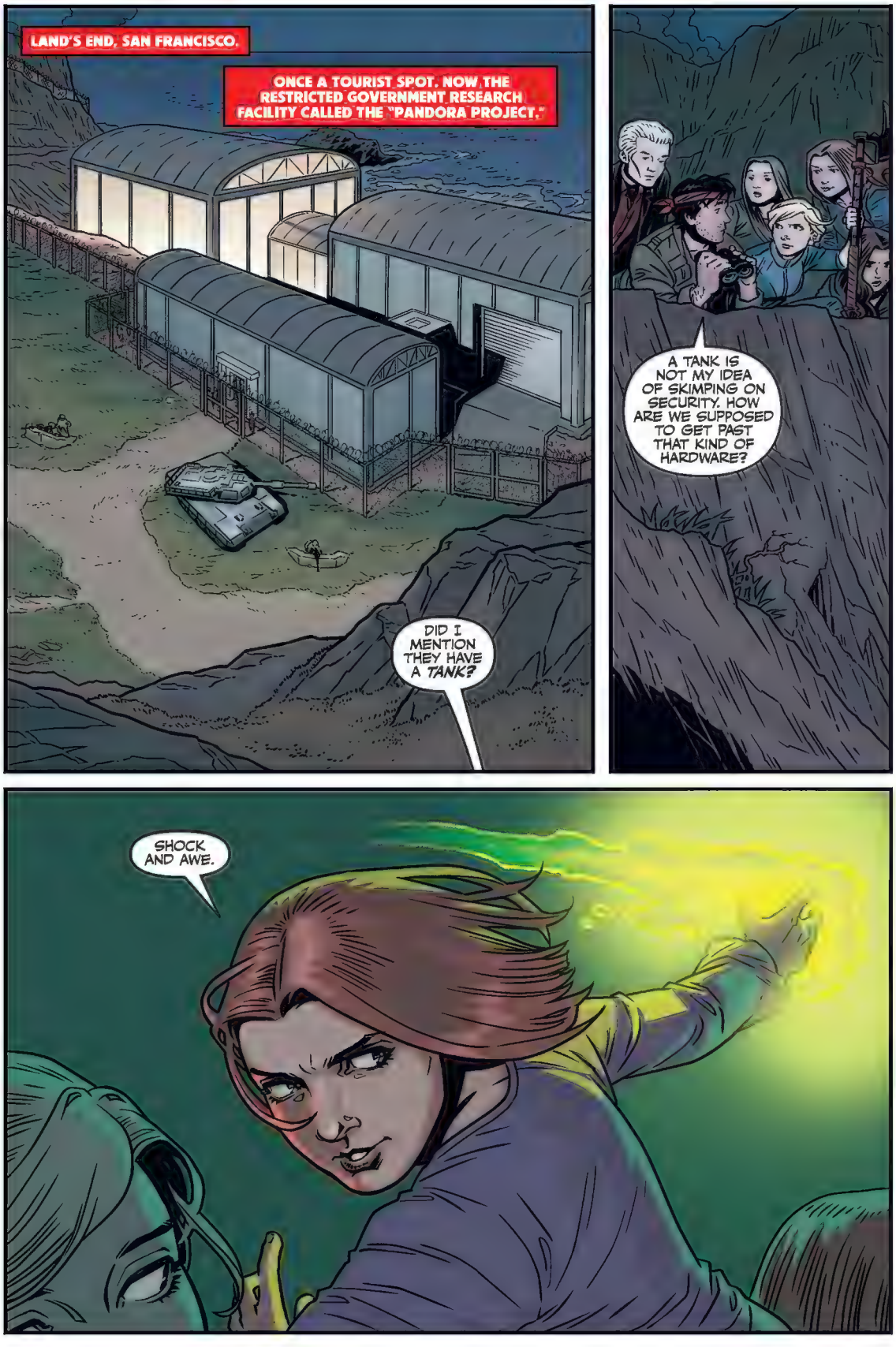

OPHELIA REYES, SECRETARY OF THE SUPERNATURAL.
SHE'S BEEN IN ON EVERY MAJOR DECISION SINCE THE ATTACK ON SAN FRANCISCO. AND SHE'S ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO GOES IN AND OUT OF THE PANDORA PROJECT REGULARLY.
belia Reyes


SHE'S BEEN MASTERMINDING THIS FROM THE START.
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING SKETCHY ABOUT HER WHEN WE MET.
SHE STRUCK ME AS A TRUE BELIEVER. ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO THINKS ANYTHING SUPERNATURAL IS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO HUMANKIND.

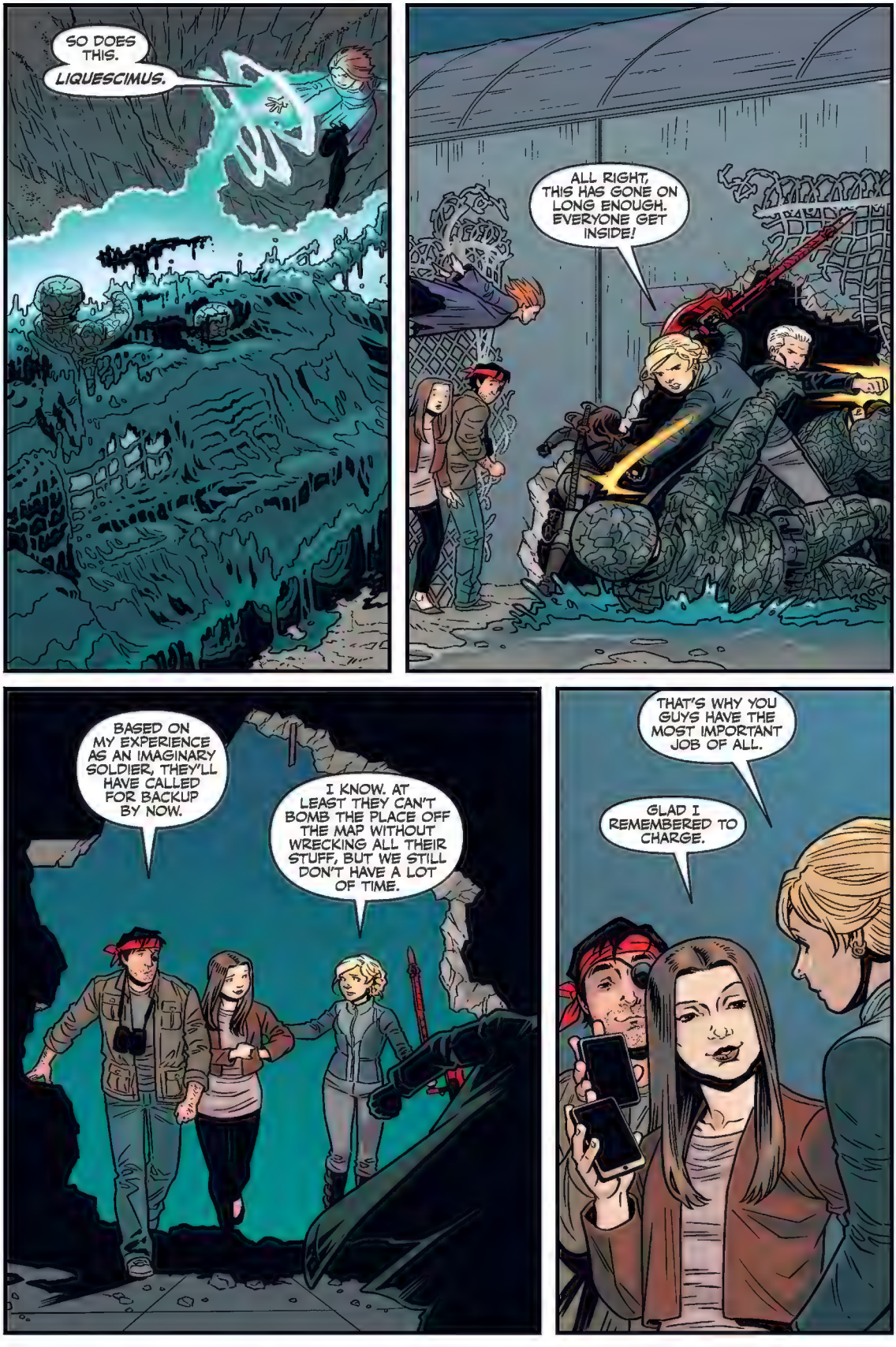

ON TODAY'S STAKEOUT WE SAW HER GO INTO THE PROJECT'S LAND'S END BASE AT ELEVEN A.M. WHICH IS PRETTY STANDARD ROUTINE FOR HER.
SHE USUALLY STAYS LATE...EIGHT, NINE O'CLOCK. SO SHE'S THERE NOW.


RIGHT. THERE'S NO SNEAKING INTO THE UPPER LEVEL--SECURITY'S TOO TIGHT.
BUT NOT MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE. YOU EITHER GET NUMBERS OR PRIVACY, NOT BOTH. THEY WENT ALL IN ON KEEPING THEIR SECRETS.
WE JUST NEED TO GET INSIDE. AFTER THAT, IF WE SCREW THIS UP... WHAT HAPPENS NEXT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.

PART ELEVEN
REVELATIONS


LAND'S END, SAN FRANCISCO.
ONCE A TOURIST SPOT, NOW THE RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT RESEARCH FACILITY CALLED THE "PANDORA PROJECT."
DID I MENTION THEY HAVE A TANK?
A TANK IS NOT MY IDEA OF SKIMPING ON SECURITY. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET PAST THAT KIND OF HARDWARE?
SHOCK AND AWE.

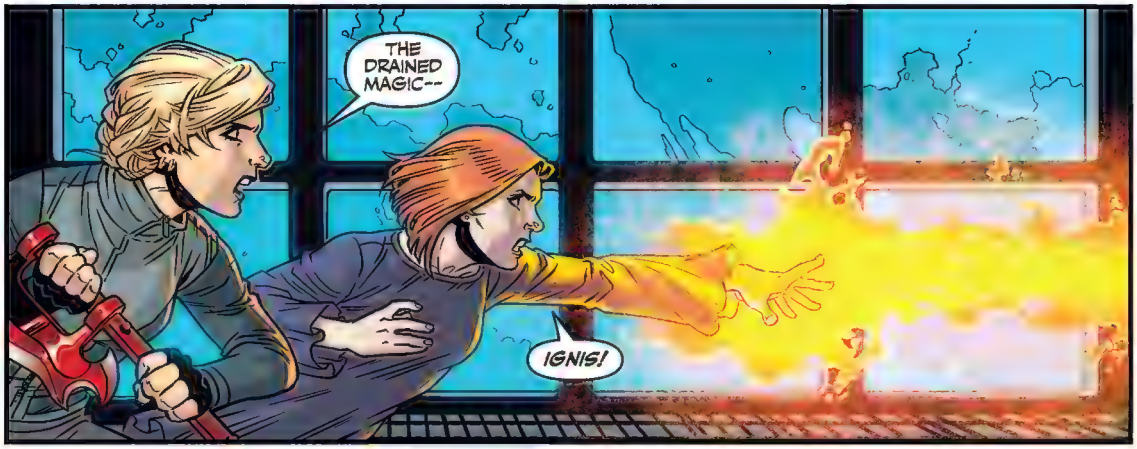
BAWHOOOM
I LIKED YOUR "HAMMER OF GOVANNON" SPELL BETTER.
YEAH, IT'S GREAT IF I'VE GOT AN HOUR TO RECOVER. NOT IF YOU NEED ME TO, Y'KNOW, BE USEFUL.
THESE GUYS ARE JUST DOING THEIR JOBS, GO EASY ON 'EM!
TANK TANK TANK!
FWAMM
OKAY, POINT MADE. THAT SHIELD DOES COME IN HANDY.


SO DOES THIS.
LIQUESCIMUS.
ALL RIGHT, THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH. EVERYONE GET INSIDE!
BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE AS AN IMAGINARY SOLDIER, THEY'LL HAVE CALLED FOR BACKUP BY NOW.
I KNOW. AT LEAST THEY CAN'T BOMB THE PLACE OFF THE MAP WITHOUT WRECKING ALL THEIR STUFF, BUT WE STILL DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME.
THAT'S WHY YOU GUYS HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB OF ALL.
GLAD I REMEMBERED TO CHARGE.

GOT A SCENT OF HUMANS THIS WAY.
LIKE XANDER SAID THEY'LL BE CALLING FOR HELP, SO ODDS ARE--
--NEED HEAVY SUPPORT, NOW!
AH, HELL.
YOU MADE ME AN OFFER ONCE. NOW WE'RE MAKING YOU ONE.
TALK. THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING. HOW YOU'VE BEEN PULLING THE STRINGS THE WHOLE TIME.
ME? HA! ALWAYS ONE STEP BEHIND, AREN'T YOU?
BUT THAT'S GOOD. THE ONLY WAY WE SURVIVE IN A WORLD WITH THE LIKES OF YOU IS TO BE SMARTER.
VUZSHAMM

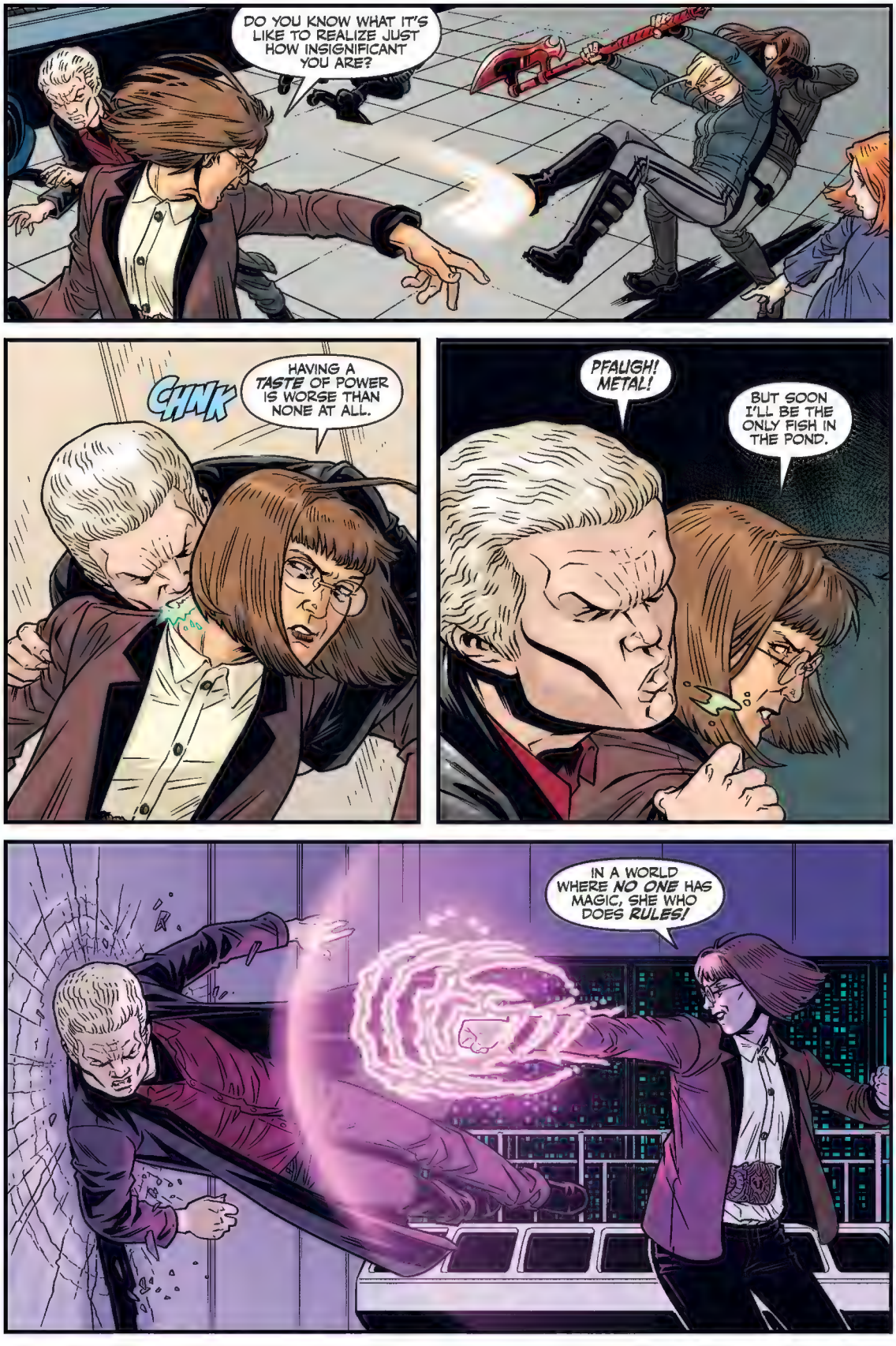
THANKS FOR COMING. SAVED US THE TROUBLE OF TRACKING YOU DOWN.
NOT THAT THERE'LL BE ANYWHERE TO RUN, SOON ENOUGH.
HANG ON. AIN'T SHE THE BLOODY PRESS SECRETARY?
YEAH. SLINGING SERIOUS MAGIC.
WHAT'S A WITCH DOING PUSHING ANTI-MAGIC P.R.?
DON'T KNOW. DON'T CARE.
LONG AS IT STOPS!
SHHNGG
WHAT THE HELL--?

SEE? NOT A WITCH. NOT LIKE YOU, MISS ROSENBERG. I ONLY EVER HAD A TINY BIT OF MAGIC TALENT.
SO I LOOKED INTO *ENHANCEMENTS.*


THE DRAINED MAGIC--
IGNIS!

NOW SHE FIGURES IT OUT!
THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE SPENT YEARS GROOMING MY BODY TO HOLD MYSTIC ENERGY.

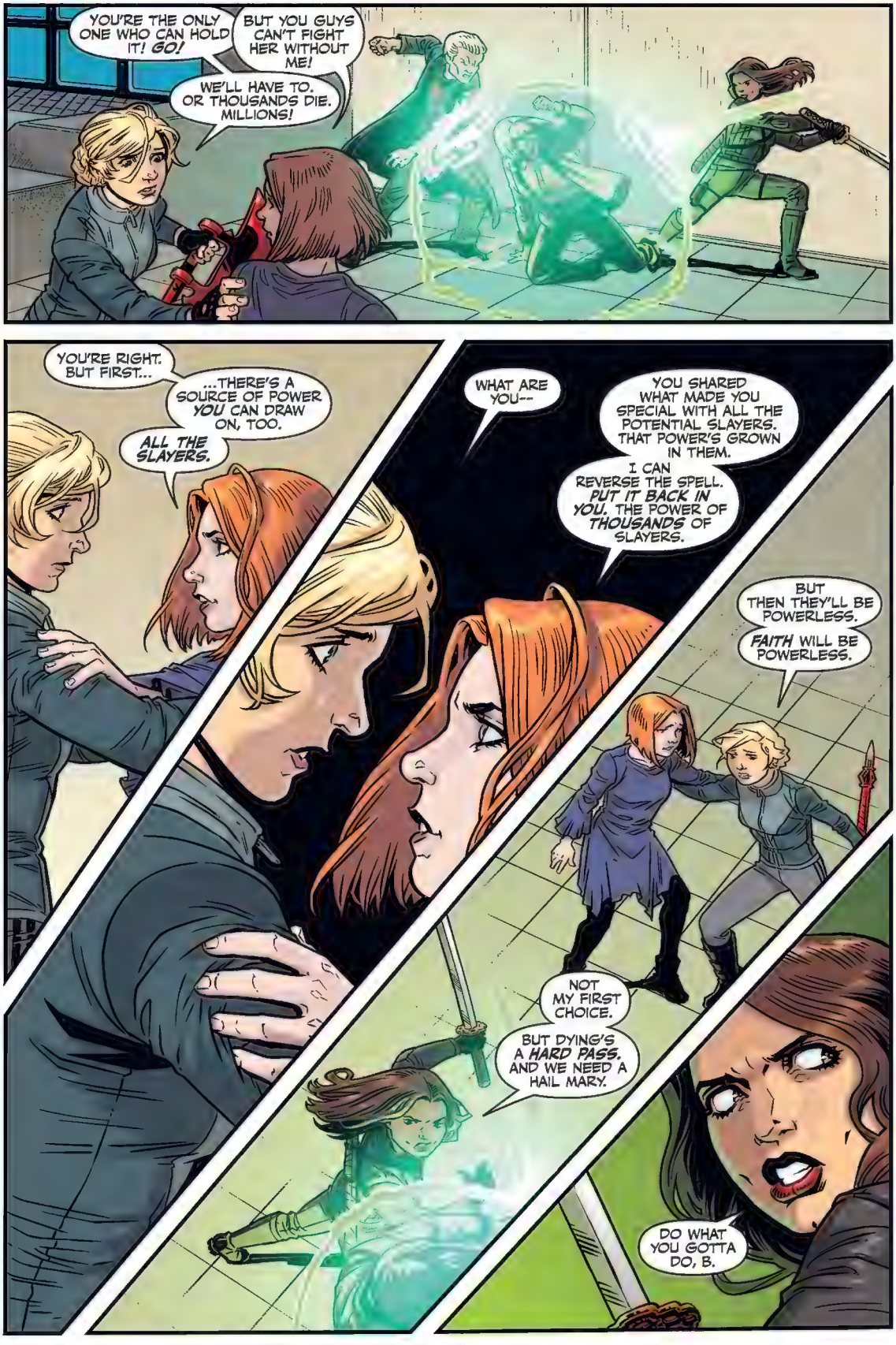
AND GUESS WHERE I'M GOING TO GET IT!


DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO REALIZE JUST HOW INSIGNIFICANT YOU ARE?
CHNK
HAVING A TASTE OF POWER IS WORSE THAN NONE AT ALL.
PFAUGH! METAL!
BUT SOON I'LL BE THE ONLY FISH IN THE POND.
IN A WORLD WHERE NO ONE HAS MAGIC, SHE WHO DOES RULES!

WHAT--?
ROOKIE MISTAKE.
MAGIC'S ABOUT MORE THAN POWER.
EXPERIENCE MATTERS.
WHAMM
NNFF!
AND YOU'RE AN AMATEUR!
AAGH!
WHRAK

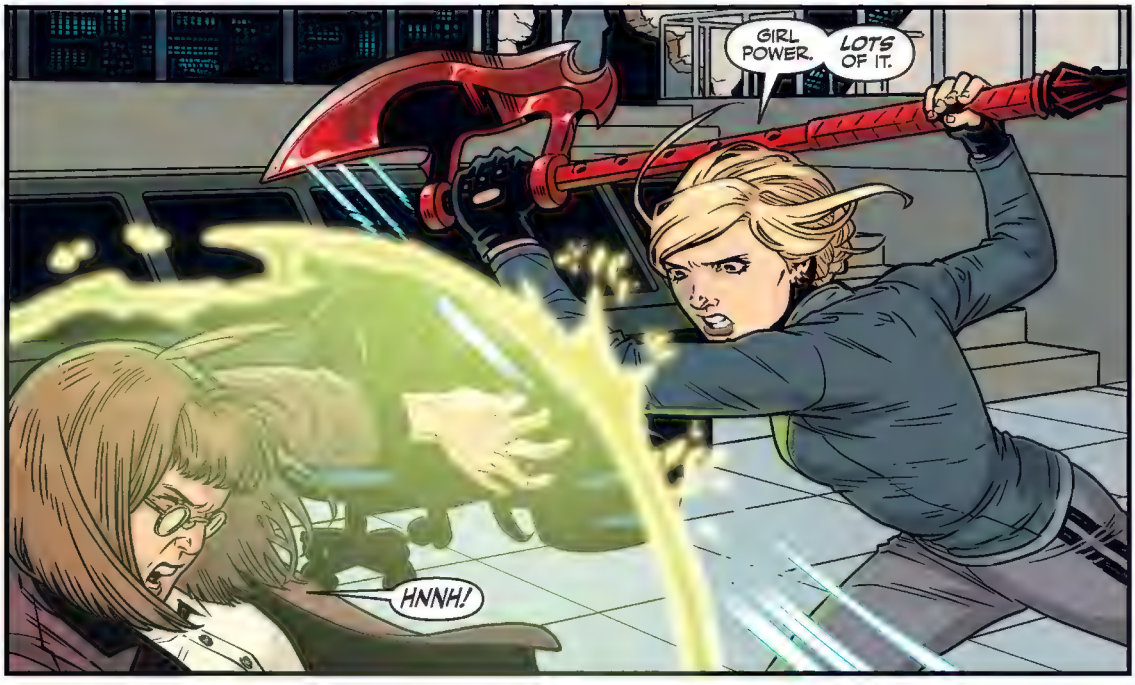
POINT MADE.
SHZZAATTT
BUT THERE'S ONE THING I'M A VETERAN AT.
A SPELL I UNCOVERED THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR ME.
ZHAOHUAN SHENLONG!
DID SHE JUST SAY--
OH, NO...
"...THE SHENLONG DRAGON THAT WRECKED SAN FRANCISCO..."

YEAH. SHE'S THE ONE WHO SUMMONED IT.
"AND SHE'S DOING IT AGAIN!"
SKREEEAR


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HOLD IT! GO!
BUT YOU GUYS CAN'T FIGHT HER WITHOUT ME!
WE'LL HAVE TO. OR THOUSANDS DIE. MILLIONS!
YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT FIRST...
...THERE'S A SOURCE OF POWER YOU CAN DRAW ON, TOO.
ALL THE SLAYERS.
WHAT ARE YOU--
YOU SHARED WHAT MADE YOU SPECIAL WITH ALL THE POTENTIAL SLAYERS. THAT POWER'S GROWN IN THEM.
I CAN REVERSE THE SPELL. PUT IT BACK IN YOU. THE POWER OF THOUSANDS OF SLAYERS.
BUT THEN THEY'LL BE POWERLESS.
FAITH WILL BE POWERLESS.
NOT MY FIRST CHOICE.
BUT DYING'S A HARD PASS. AND WE NEED A HAIL MARY.
DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO, B.

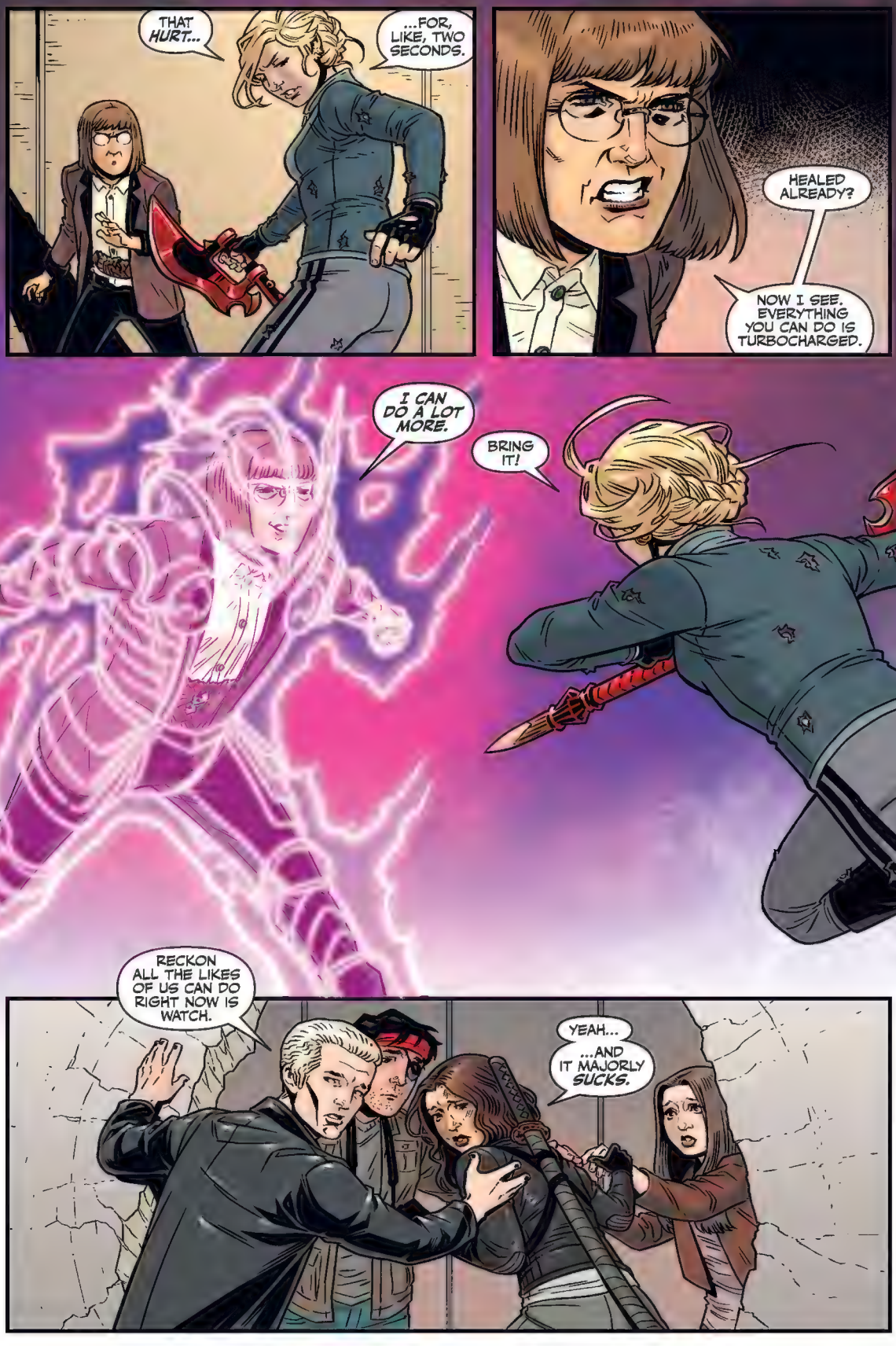
DO IT.
OKAY. I COULD GET USED TO THIS.

I'VE GOT THE WITCH! GO FIGHT THE DRAGON!
OUR LIFE IS SO WEIRD...
YOU POWERED UP? GOOD FOR YOU.
GUHH!
I'VE BEEN DOING THAT FOR MONTHS.
NOT IMPRESSED.
WHIZZT
YOU--CUT MAGIC?
HOW--

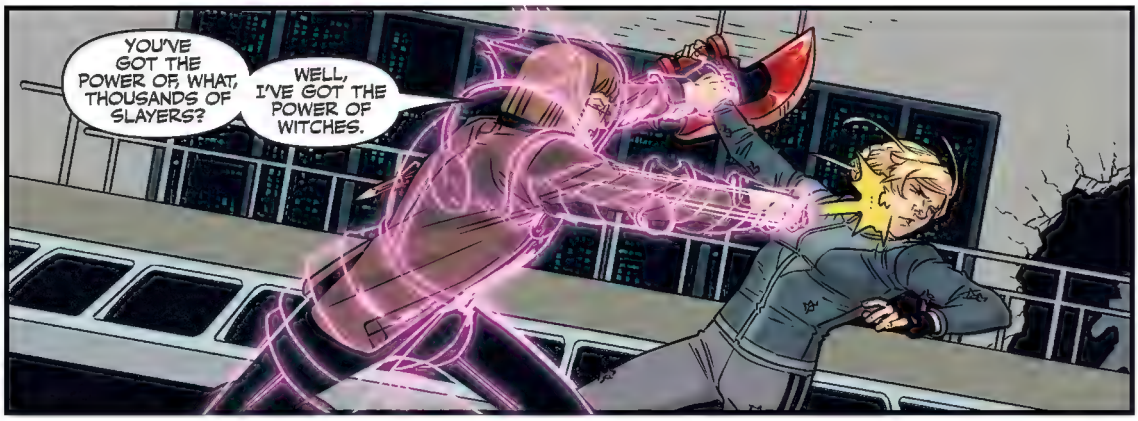

GIRL POWER.
LOTS OF IT.
HNNH!

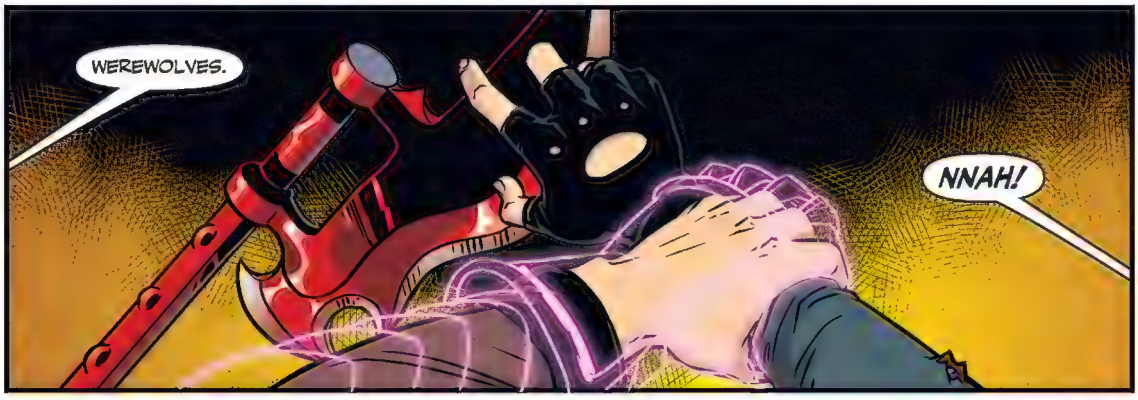
RAIN OF DEATH!

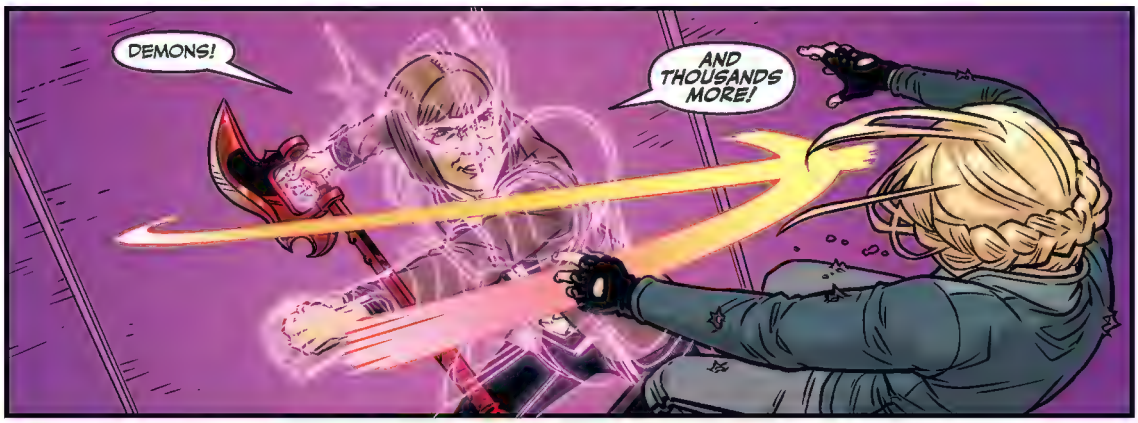
ARRH!


THAT HURT...
...FOR, LIKE, TWO SECONDS.
HEALED ALREADY?
NOW I SEE. EVERYTHING YOU CAN DO IS TURBOCHARGED.
I CAN DO A LOT MORE.
BRING IT!
RECKON ALL THE LIKES OF US CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS WATCH.
YEAH...
...AND IT MAJORLY SUCKS.

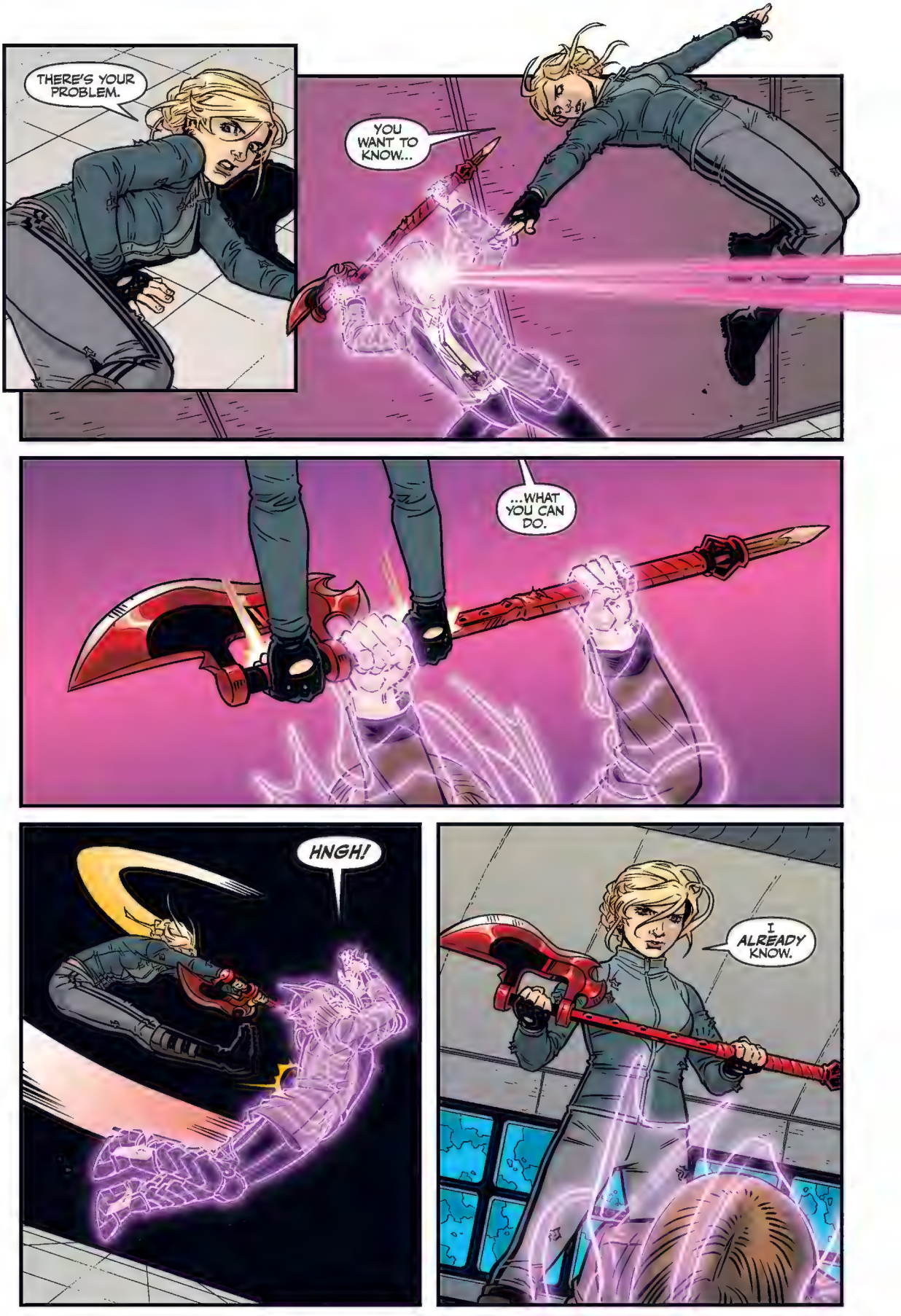
OUT TO SEA.
HRREEE
OH, GODDESS...
...I CAN'T HOLD IT.
EVERYONE...
...RUN!


YOU'VE GOT THE POWER OF, WHAT, THOUSANDS OF SLAYERS?
WELL, I'VE GOT THE POWER OF WITCHES.


WEREWOLVES.
NNAH!

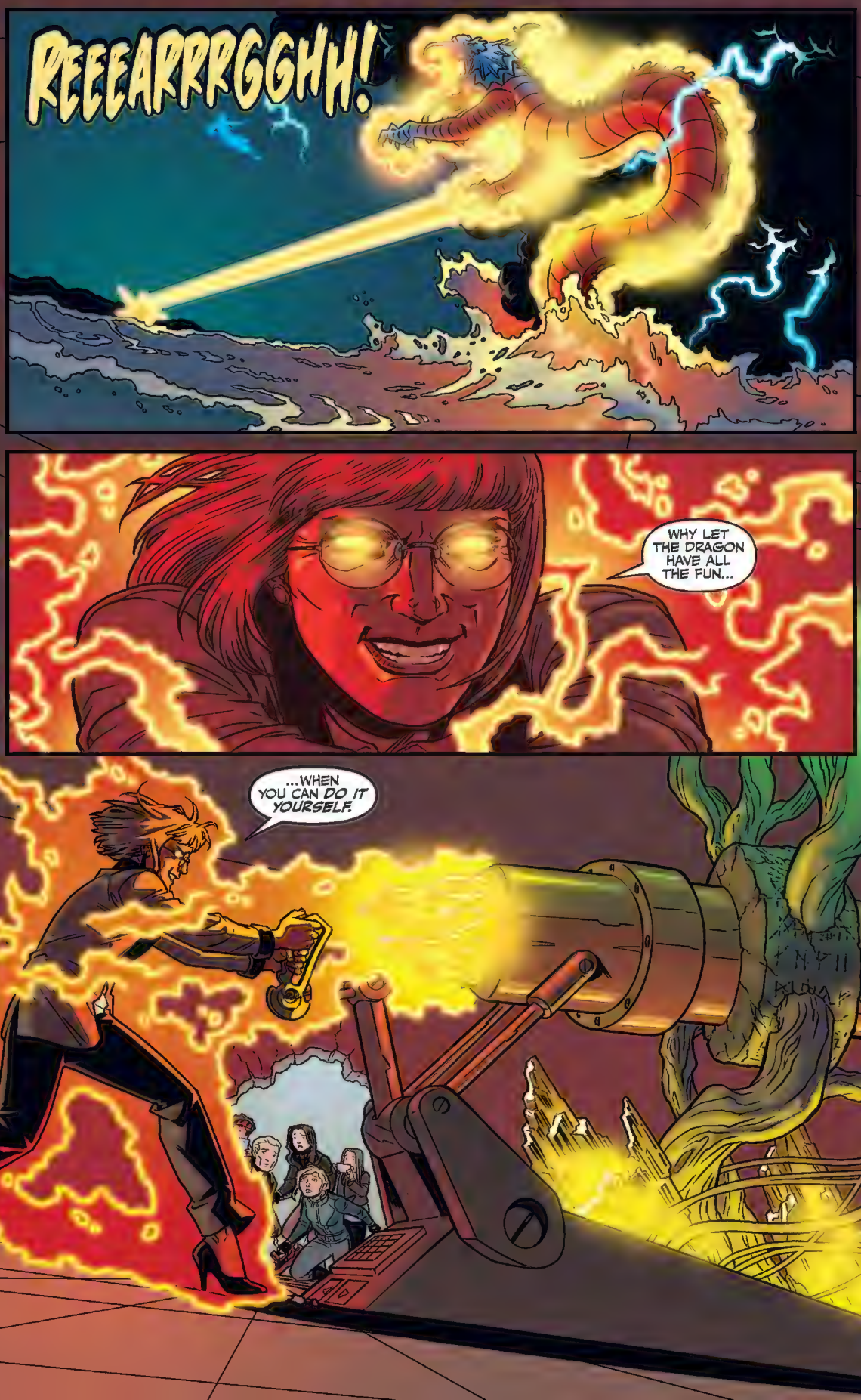

DEMONS!
AND THOUSANDS MORE!

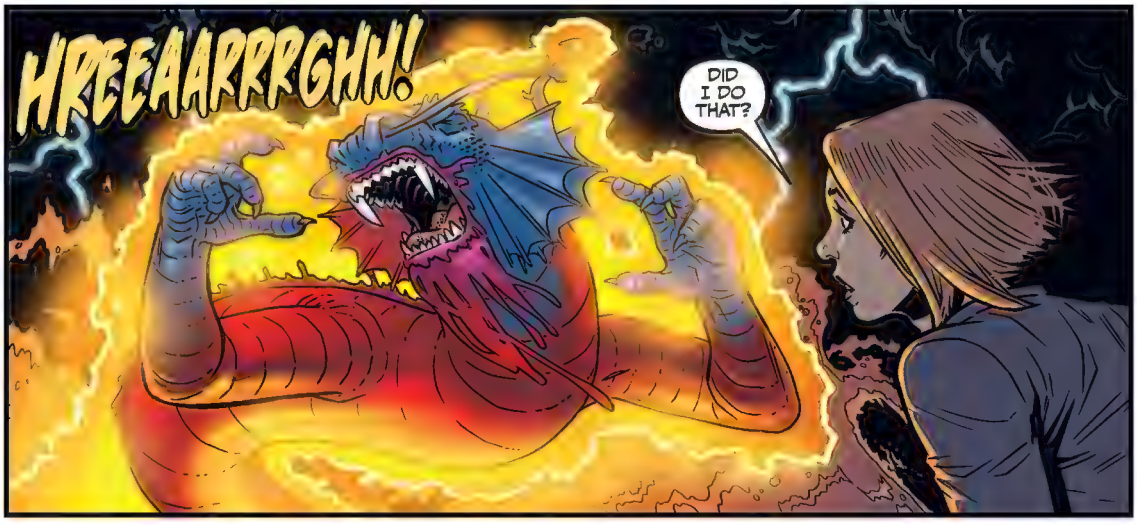
LET'S SEE WHO'S STRONGER!
LET'S SEE IF I CAN BREAK THIS TOY AND BEAT YOU TO DEATH WITH IT!


THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM.
YOU WANT TO KNOW...
...WHAT YOU CAN DO.
HNGH!
I ALREADY KNOW.

I'VE BEEN DOING THIS ALL MY LIFE!
WHILE YOU WERE SITTING BEHIND A DESK!
S-STOP--
I KNOW I'M STRONG!
FWASH
NO!!
VAZZAKK

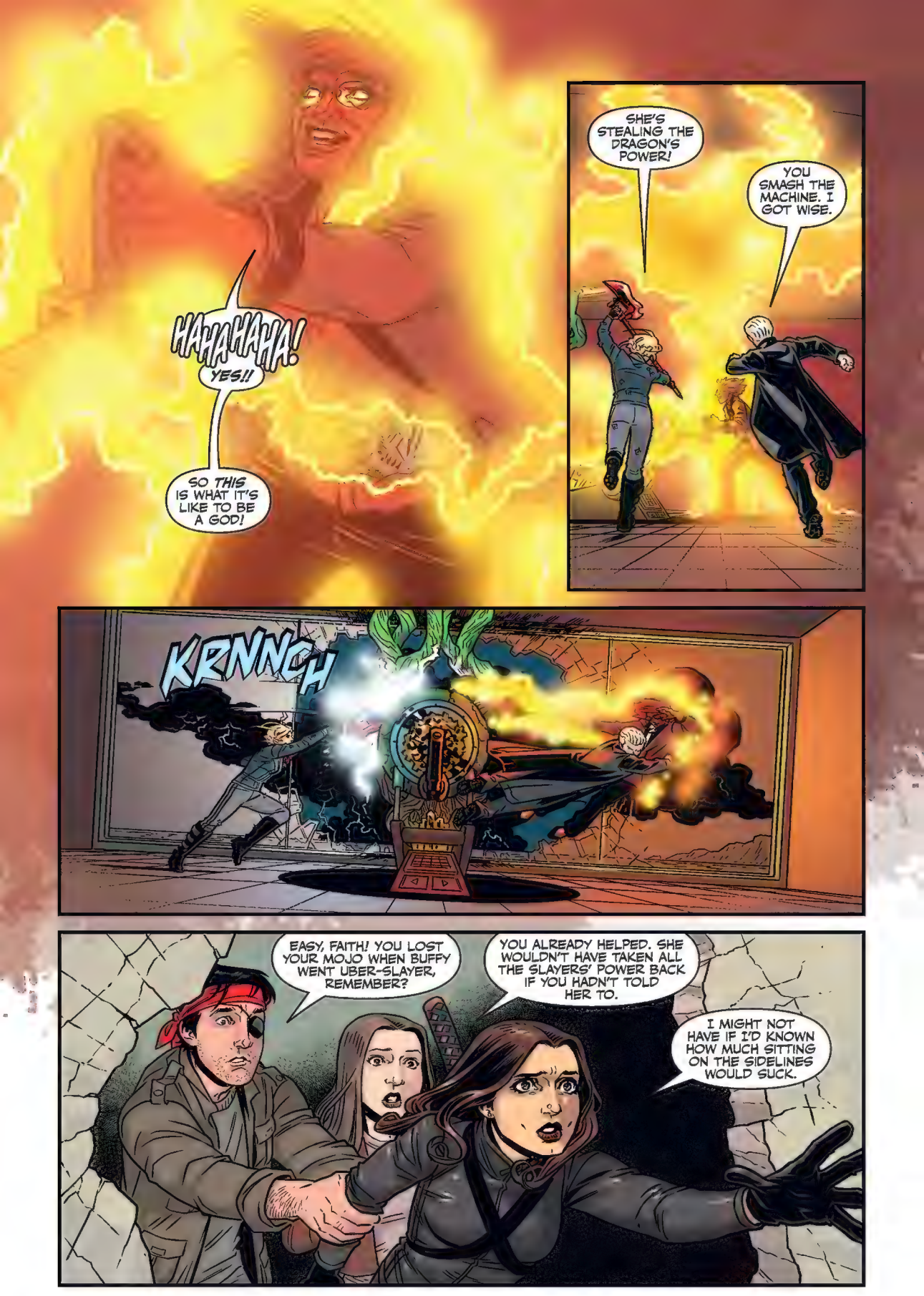
N-NEED MORE POWER...
BRAMM
AND I KNOW WHERE TO GET IT.
THE POWER DRAINER!
STOP HER-
URKK!
THERE YOU ARE.
OH, THIS ISN'T GOOD.


REEEARRRGGHH!
WHY LET THE DRAGON HAVE ALL THE FUN...
...WHEN YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF.


HREEAARRRGHH!
DID I DO THAT?

NO, I DIDN'T.
BUT I HAVE A BAD FEELING I KNOW WHO DID.

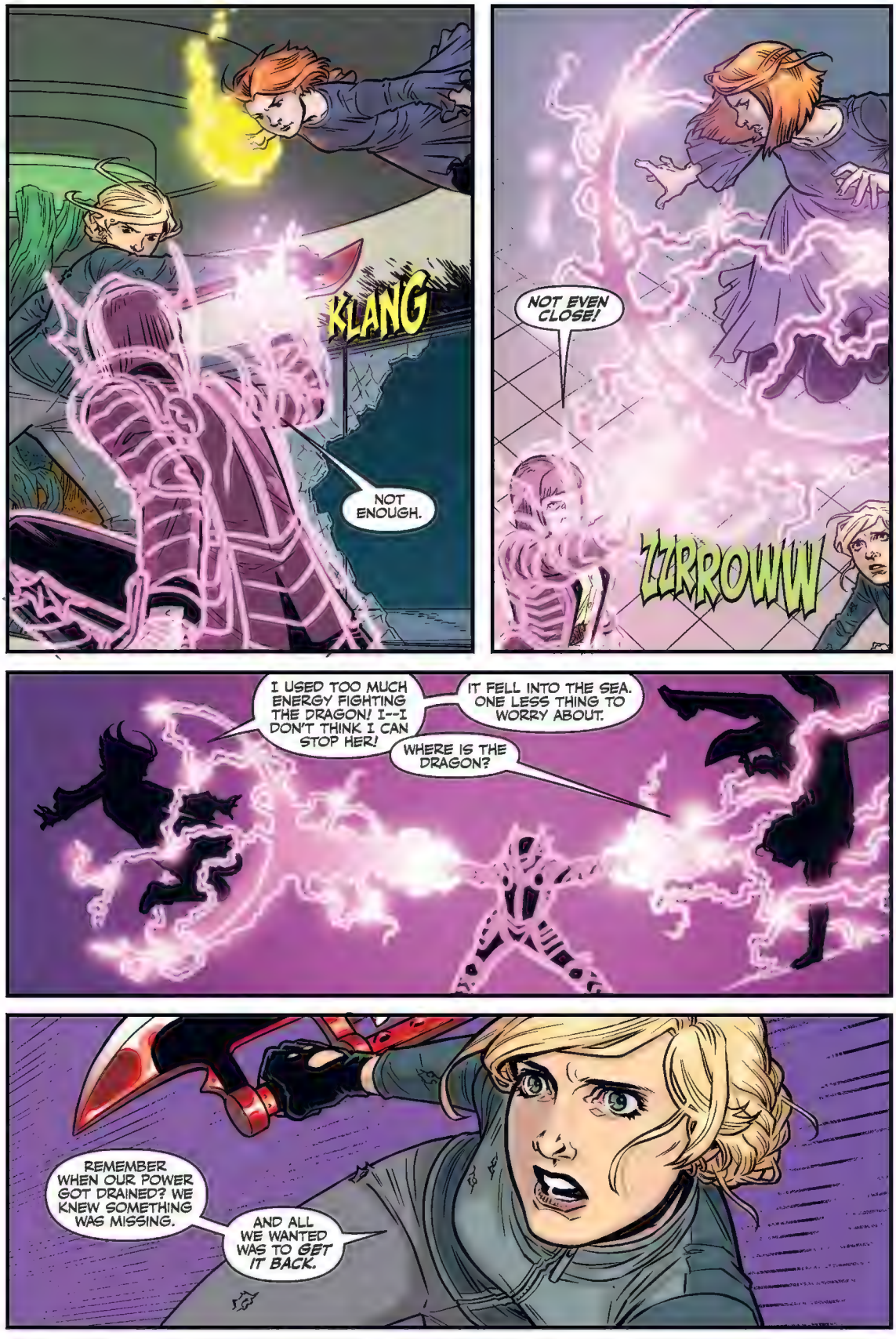
PART TWELVE
ONE GIRL IN ALL THE WORLD

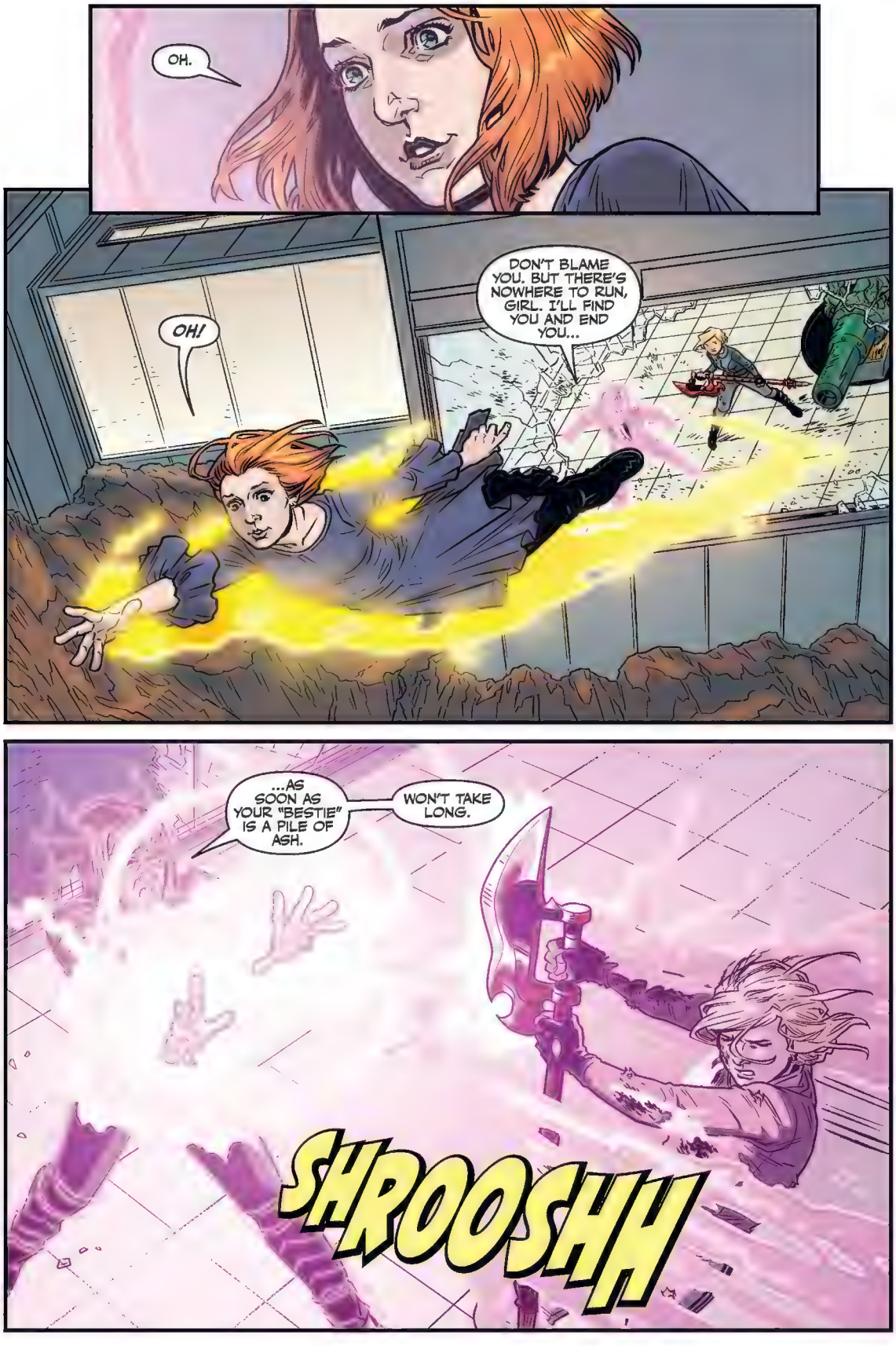

HAHAHAHA!
YES!!
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A GOD!
SHE'S STEALING THE DRAGON'S POWER!
YOU SMASH THE MACHINE. I GOT WISE.
KRNNCH
EASY, FAITH! YOU LOST YOUR MOJO WHEN BUFFY WENT UBER-SLAYER, REMEMBER?
YOU ALREADY HELPED. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN ALL THE SLAYERS' POWER BACK IF YOU HADN'T TOLD HER TO.
I MIGHT NOT HAVE IF I'D KNOWN HOW MUCH SITTING ON THE SIDELINES WOULD SUCK.

OFF ME!
GUHH!
IDIOTS. I DON'T NEED ALL THE DRAGON'S POWER.
I GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH TO WIPE THE LIKES OF YOU OFF THE PLANET.
GO ON, THEN.
RECKON I'VE HAD A BETTER RUN THAN I DESERVE.
SPIKE!

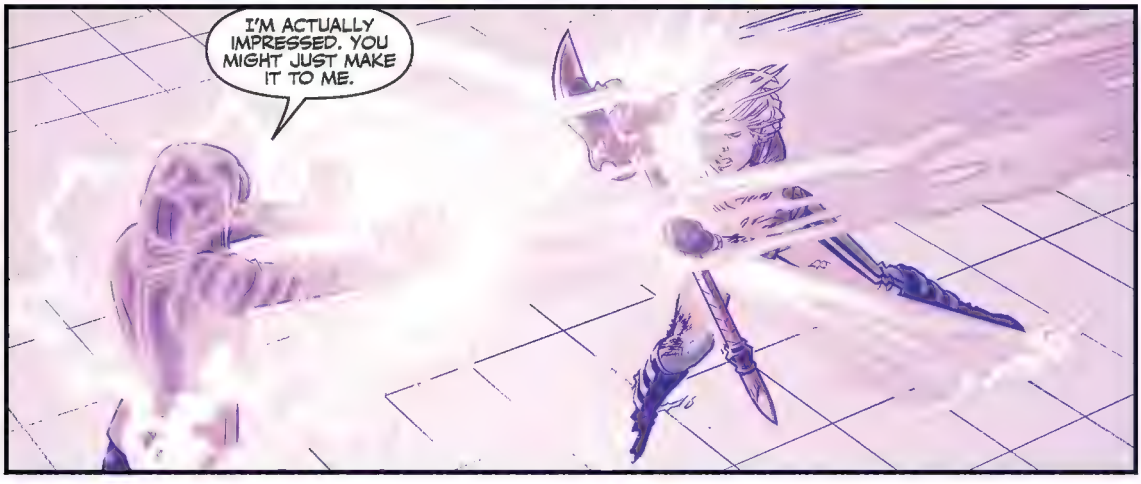
VVRAASSH
NNAAAGH!
HELL WITH THIS.
OH MY GOD, SPIKE?
STILL... UNDEAD. BARELY.
I GOT HIM, B.
YOU USE OUR POWER TO KICK HER ASS!

DEAL.
HAH! THE POWER OF A FEW THOUSAND SLAYERS...
...AGAINST A FORCE OF NATURE?
KTANG
AND A GROUCHY WITCH.
ZRRAKK
AGH!

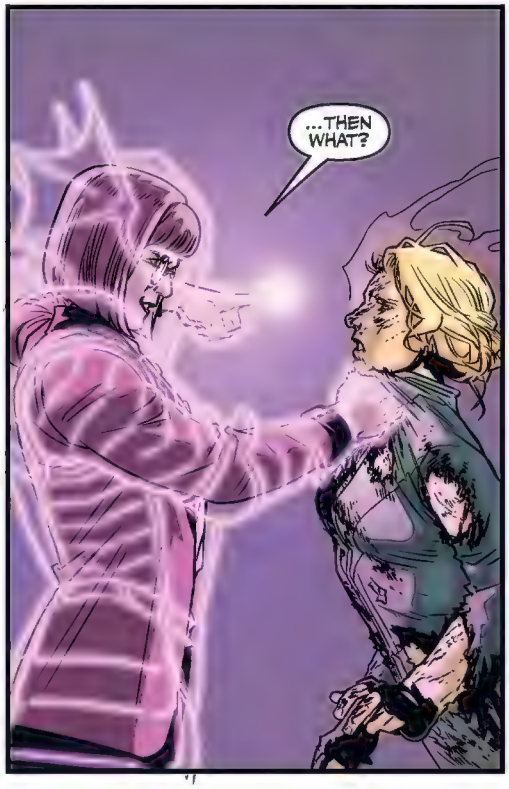

KLANG
NOT ENOUGH.
NOT EVEN CLOSE!
ZZRROWW
I USED TOO MUCH ENERGY FIGHTING THE DRAGON! I--I DON'T THINK I CAN STOP HER!
IT FELL INTO THE SEA. ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WHERE IS THE DRAGON?
REMEMBER WHEN OUR POWER GOT DRAINED? WE KNEW SOMETHING WAS MISSING.
AND ALL WE WANTED WAS TO GET IT BACK.


OH.
OH!
DON'T BLAME YOU. BUT THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, GIRL. I'LL FIND YOU AND END YOU...
...AS SOON AS YOUR "BESTIE" IS A PILE OF ASH.
WON'T TAKE LONG.
SHROOSHH

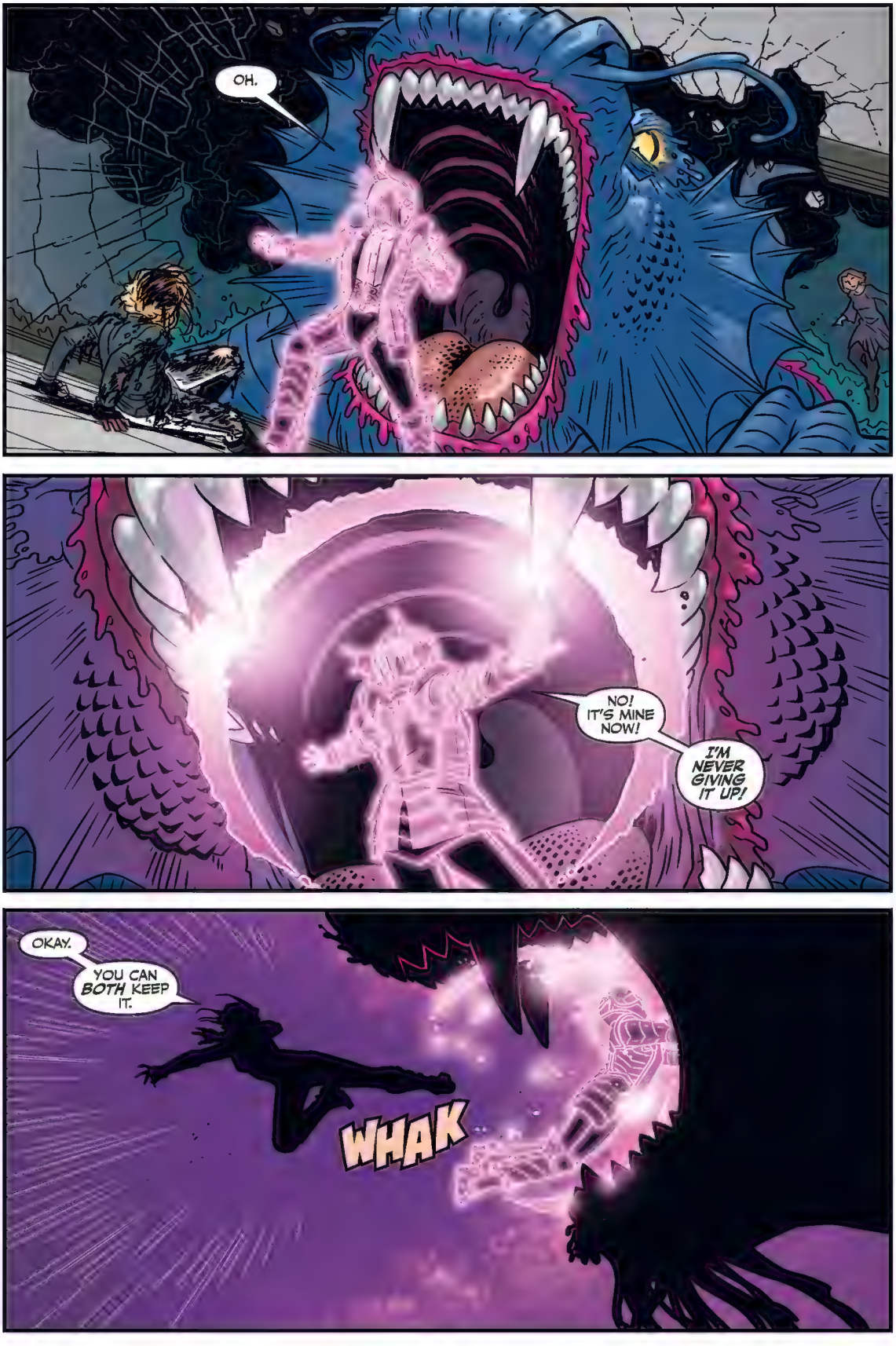
COME ON, COME ON...


I'M ACTUALLY IMPRESSED. YOU MIGHT JUST MAKE IT TO ME.

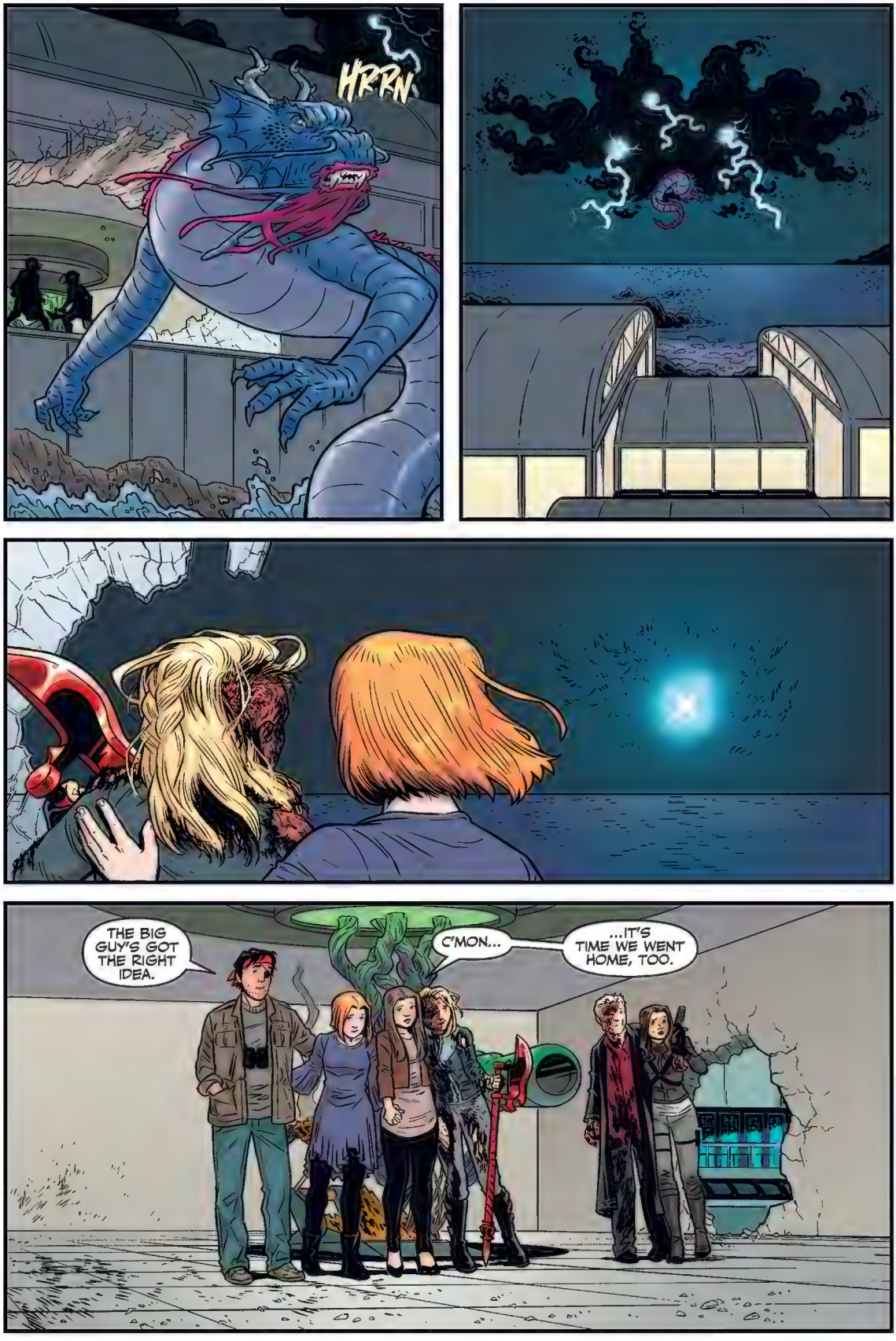
OF COURSE, THE BIG QUESTION IS...

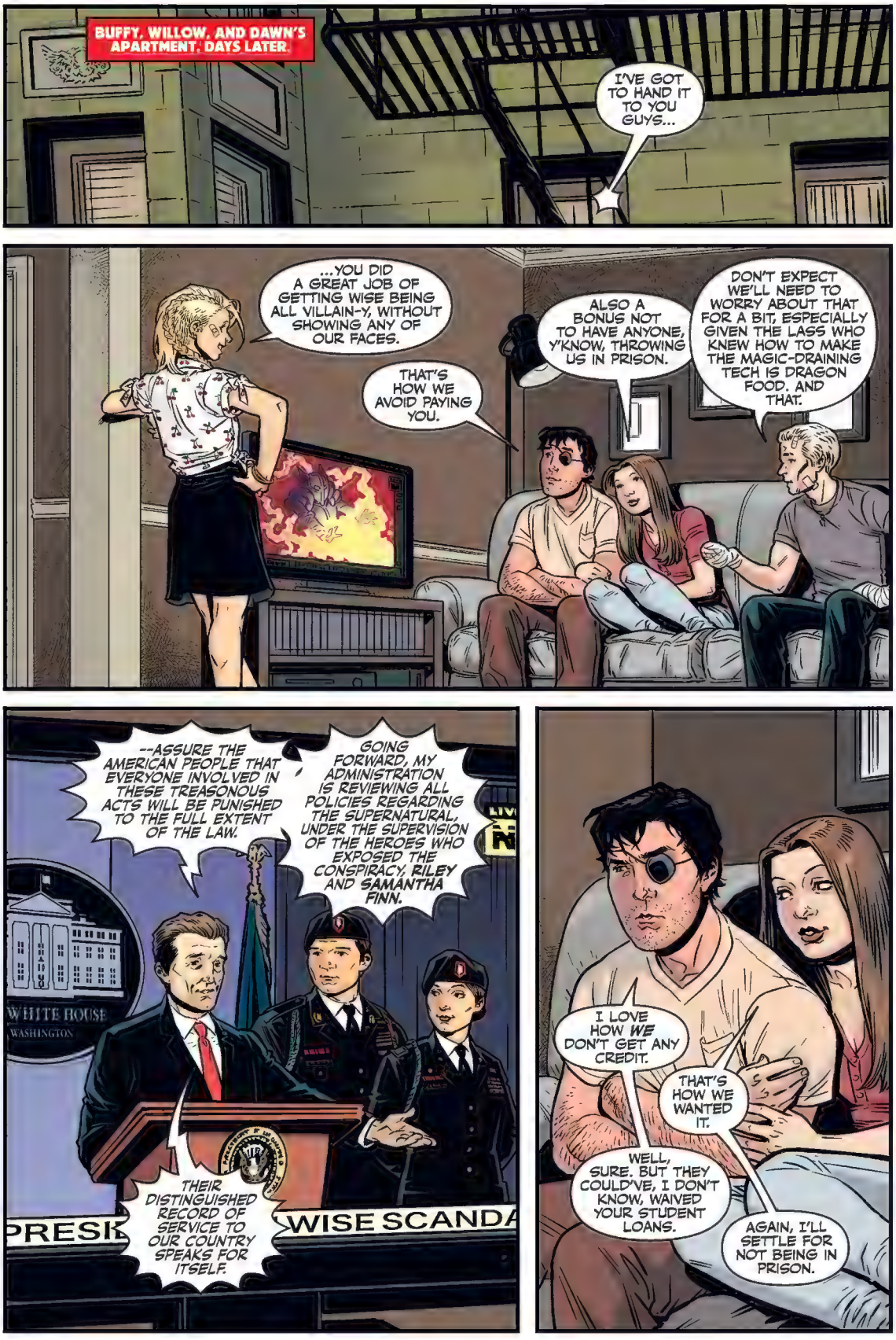

...THEN WHAT?

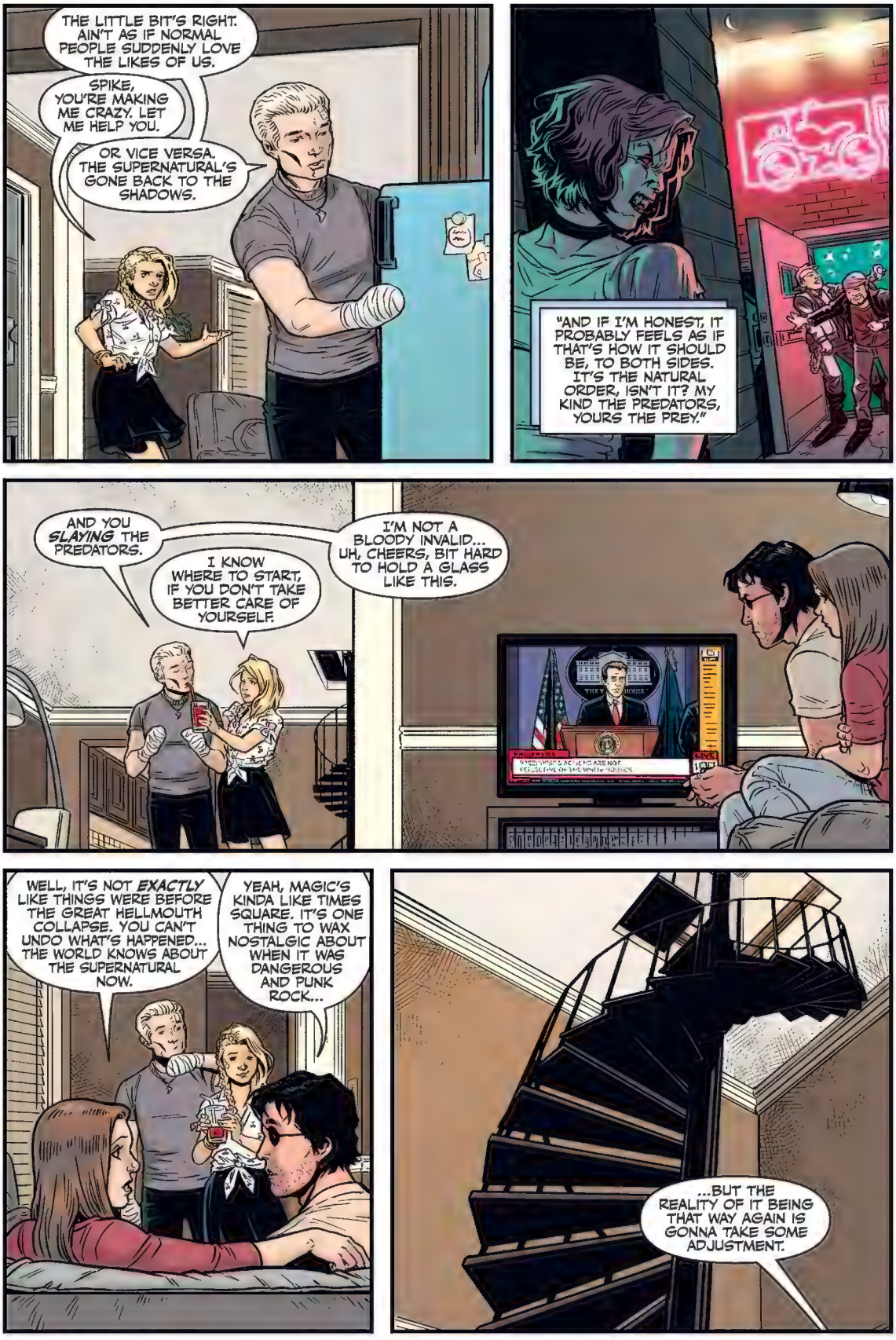
THIS.
BOOT
REALLY? SO MUCH EFFORT FOR A KICK TO THE HEAD? I BARELY FELT IT.
I THINK WE'RE ALL READY FOR THIS TO BE OVER.
SHHRZZZ
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
SKREEEONKK

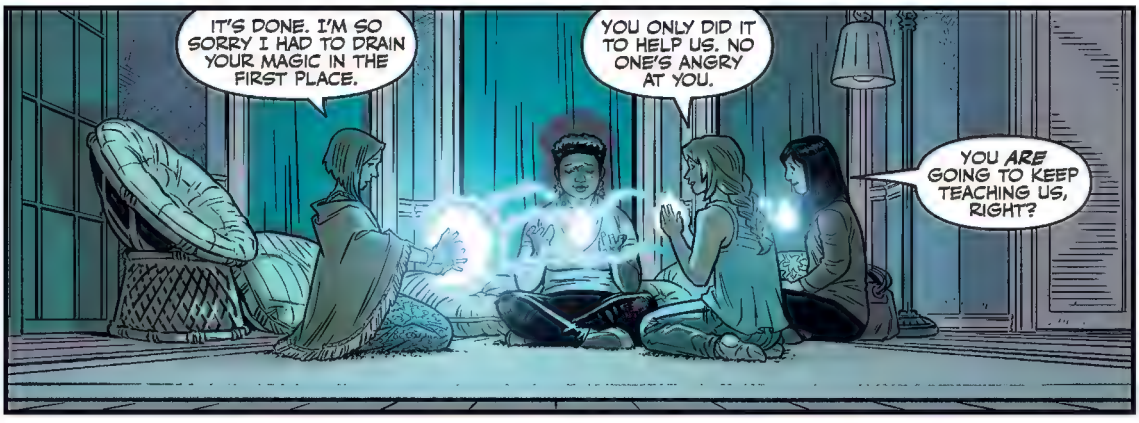

OH.
NO! IT'S MINE NOW!
I'M NEVER GIVING IT UP!
OKAY.
YOU CAN BOTH KEEP IT.
WHAK

SNAPP
SNORT
UH...
WHO'S A GOOD DRAGON?

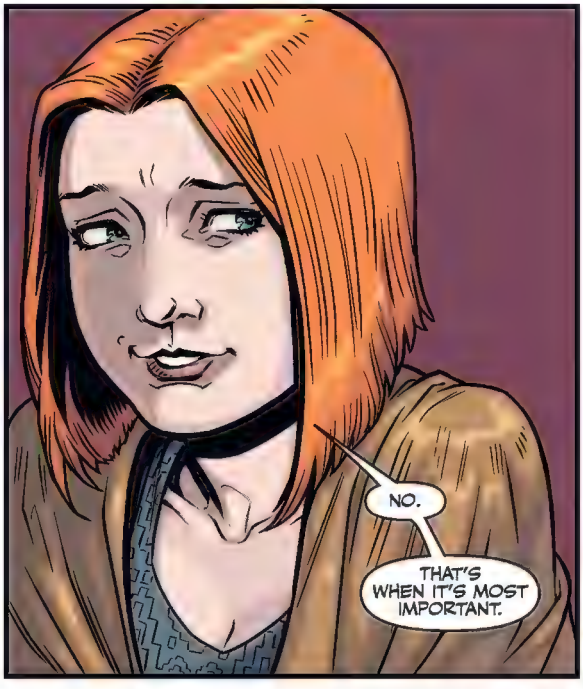

HRRN
THE BIG GUY'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA.
C'MON...
...IT'S TIME WE WENT HOME, TOO.

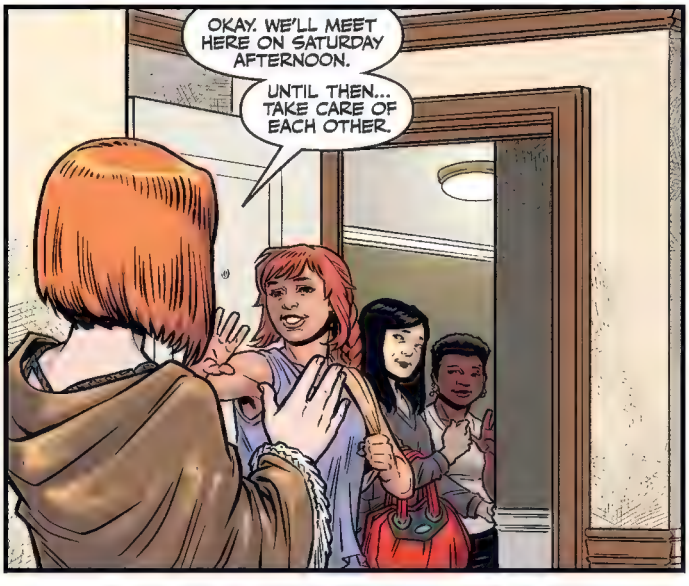

BUFFY, WILLOW, AND DAWN'S APARTMENT, DAYS LATER.
I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU GUYS...
...YOU DID A GREAT JOB OF GETTING WISE BEING ALL VILLAIN-Y, WITHOUT SHOWING ANY OF OUR FACES.
THAT'S HOW WE AVOID PAYING YOU.
ALSO A BONUS NOT TO HAVE ANYONE, Y'KNOW, THROWING US IN PRISON.
DON'T EXPECT WE'LL NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT FOR A BIT, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE LASS WHO KNEW HOW TO MAKE THE MAGIC-DRAINING TECH IS DRAGON FOOD. AND THAT.
--ASSURE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THESE TREASONOUS ACTS WILL BE PUNISHED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.
GOING FORWARD, MY ADMINISTRATION IS REVIEWING ALL POLICIES REGARDING THE SUPERNATURAL, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE HEROES WHO EXPOSED THE CONSPIRACY, RILEY AND SAMANTHA FINN.
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
THEIR DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.
PRESI
WISE SCANDA
I LOVE HOW WE DON'T GET ANY CREDIT.
THAT'S HOW WE WANTED IT.
WELL, SURE. BUT THEY COULD'VE, I DON'T KNOW, WAIVED YOUR STUDENT LOANS.
AGAIN, I'LL SETTLE FOR NOT BEING IN PRISON.


THE LITTLE BIT'S RIGHT. AIN'T AS IF NORMAL PEOPLE SUDDENLY LOVE THE LIKES OF US.
SPIKE, YOU'RE MAKING ME CRAZY. LET ME HELP YOU.
OR VICE VERSA. THE SUPERNATURAL'S GONE BACK TO THE SHADOWS.
"AND IF I'M HONEST, IT PROBABLY FEELS AS IF THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE, TO BOTH SIDES. IT'S THE NATURAL ORDER, ISN'T IT? MY KIND THE PREDATORS, YOURS THE PREY."
AND YOU *SLAYING* THE PREDATORS.
I KNOW WHERE TO START, IF YOU DON'T TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF.
I'M NOT A BLOODY INVALID... UH, CHEERS, BIT HARD TO HOLD A GLASS LIKE THIS.
WELL, IT'S NOT *EXACTLY* LIKE THINGS WERE BEFORE THE GREAT HELLMOUTH COLLAPSE. YOU CAN'T UNDO WHAT'S HAPPENED... THE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT THE SUPERNATURAL NOW.
YEAH, MAGIC'S KINDA LIKE TIMES SQUARE. IT'S ONE THING TO WAX NOSTALGIC ABOUT WHEN IT WAS DANGEROUS AND PUNK ROCK...
...BUT THE REALITY OF IT BEING THAT WAY AGAIN IS GONNA TAKE SOME ADJUSTMENT.

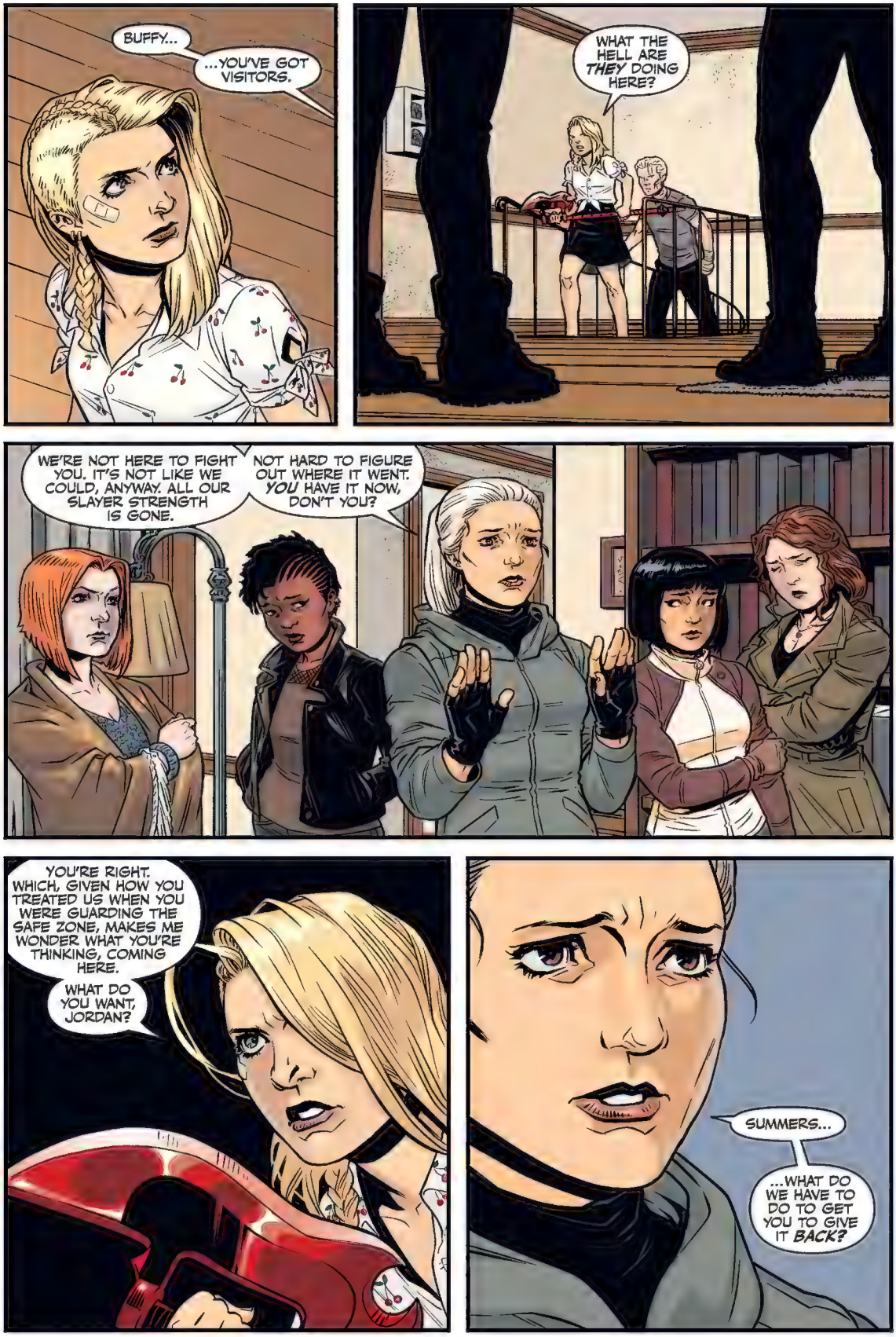

IT'S DONE. I'M SO SORRY I HAD TO DRAIN YOUR MAGIC IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU ONLY DID IT TO HELP US. NO ONE'S ANGRY AT YOU.
YOU *ARE* GOING TO KEEP TEACHING US, RIGHT?

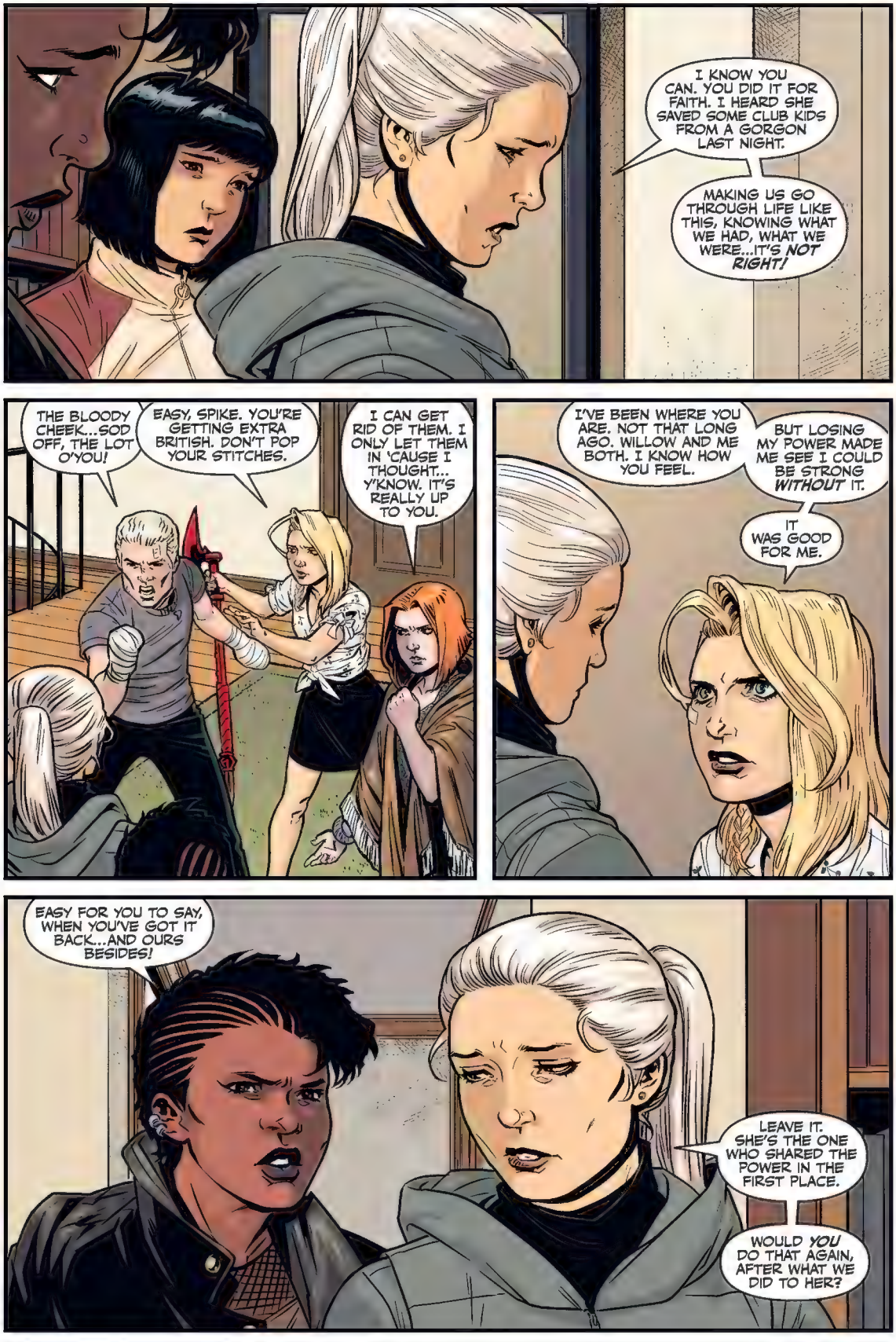
I'M...NOT SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING THEY WON'T COME AFTER US AGAIN.
SO? I'M BLACK. YOU'RE JEWISH. THERE'S NO GUARANTEE WE WON'T BE PERSECUTED FOR *THAT,* EITHER.
IS THAT A REASON TO STOP BEING WHO WE ARE? WHO WE *WANT TO BE?*

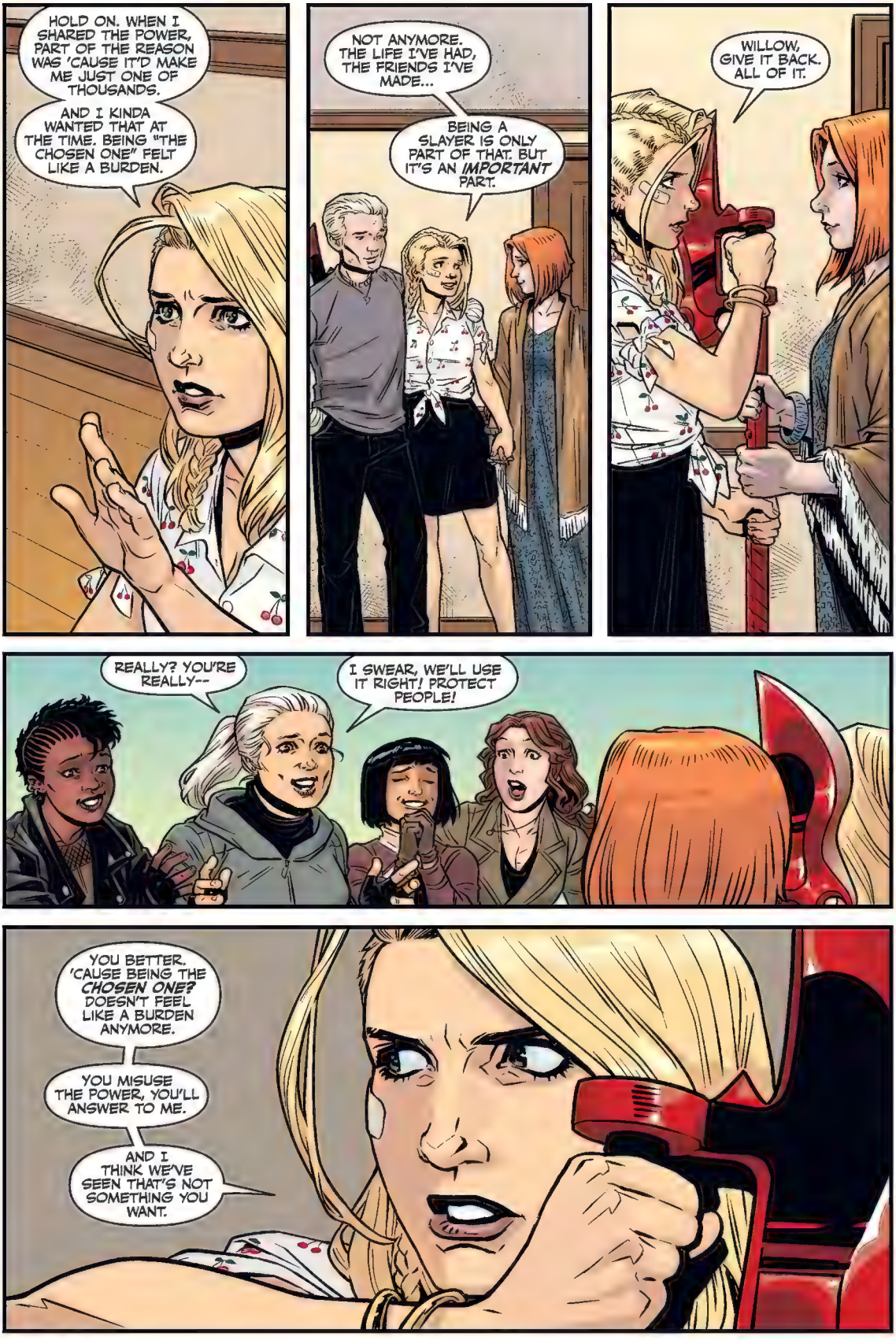

NO.
THAT'S WHEN IT'S MOST IMPORTANT.


OKAY. WE'LL MEET HERE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.
UNTIL THEN... TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER.

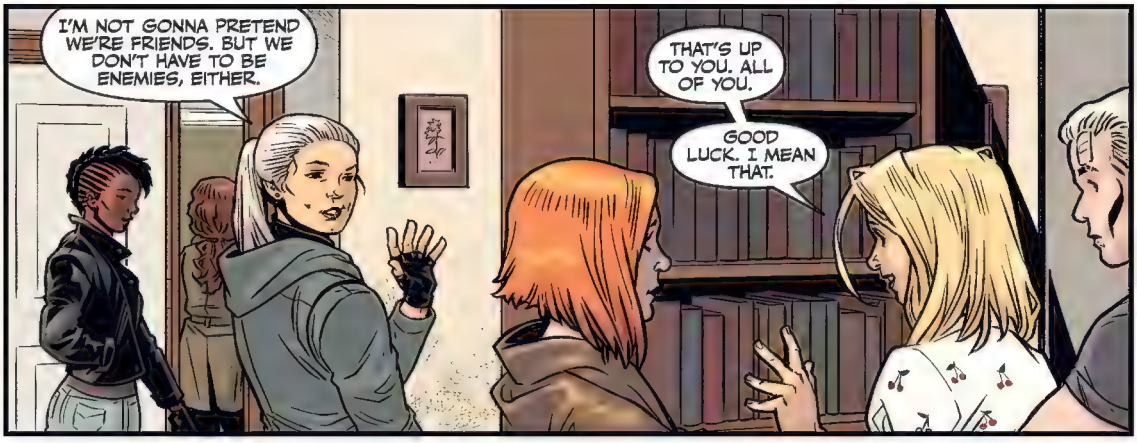
OH.
WHAT DO *YOU* WANT?


BUFFY...
...YOU'VE GOT VISITORS.
WHAT THE HELL ARE *THEY* DOING HERE?
WE'RE NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU. IT'S NOT LIKE WE COULD, ANYWAY. ALL OUR SLAYER STRENGTH IS GONE.
NOT HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHERE IT WENT. *YOU* HAVE IT NOW, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE RIGHT. WHICH, GIVEN HOW YOU TREATED US WHEN YOU WERE GUARDING THE SAFE ZONE, MAKES ME WONDER WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, COMING HERE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, JORDAN?
SUMMERS...
...WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO TO GET YOU TO GIVE IT *BACK*?


I KNOW YOU CAN. YOU DID IT FOR FAITH. I HEARD SHE SAVED SOME CLUB KIDS FROM A GORGON LAST NIGHT.
MAKING US GO THROUGH LIFE LIKE THIS, KNOWING WHAT WE HAD, WHAT WE WERE...IT'S NOT RIGHT!
THE BLOODY CHEEK...SOD OFF, THE LOT O'YOU!
EASY, SPIKE. YOU'RE GETTING EXTRA BRITISH. DON'T POP YOUR STITCHES.
I CAN GET RID OF THEM. I ONLY LET THEM IN 'CAUSE I THOUGHT... Y'KNOW. IT'S REALLY UP TO YOU.
I'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE. NOT THAT LONG AGO. WILLOW AND ME BOTH. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
BUT LOSING MY POWER MADE ME SEE I COULD BE STRONG WITHOUT IT.
IT WAS GOOD FOR ME.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, WHEN YOU'VE GOT IT BACK...AND OURS BESIDES!
LEAVE IT. SHE'S THE ONE WHO SHARED THE POWER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WOULD YOU DO THAT AGAIN, AFTER WHAT WE DID TO HER?

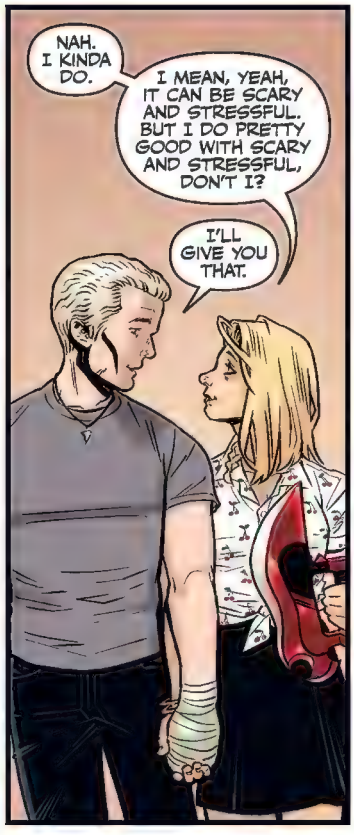

HOLD ON. WHEN I SHARED THE POWER, PART OF THE REASON WAS 'CAUSE IT'D MAKE ME JUST ONE OF THOUSANDS.
AND I KINDA WANTED THAT AT THE TIME. BEING "THE CHOSEN ONE" FELT LIKE A BURDEN.
NOT ANYMORE. THE LIFE I'VE HAD, THE FRIENDS I'VE MADE...
BEING A SLAYER IS ONLY PART OF THAT. BUT IT'S AN *IMPORTANT* PART.
WILLOW, GIVE IT BACK. ALL OF IT.
REALLY? YOU'RE REALLY--
I SWEAR, WE'LL USE IT RIGHT! PROTECT PEOPLE!
YOU BETTER. 'CAUSE BEING THE *CHOSEN ONE?* DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A BURDEN ANYMORE.
YOU MISUSE THE POWER, YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME.
AND I THINK WE'VE SEEN THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU WANT.

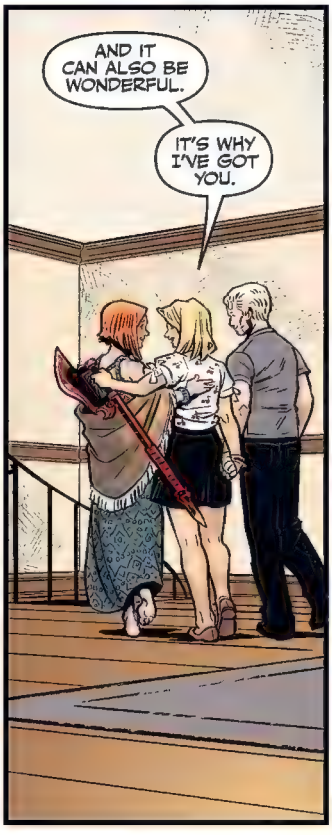
TOTALLY. WE GET IT. I PROMISE.
SO, UH, WHEN DO WE--
HOW ABOUT NOW.
WORKS FOR ME.
I CAN FEEL IT. IT'S BACK.
IT'S BACK!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
YOU CAN ALL GET OUT OF MY APARTMENT NOW.

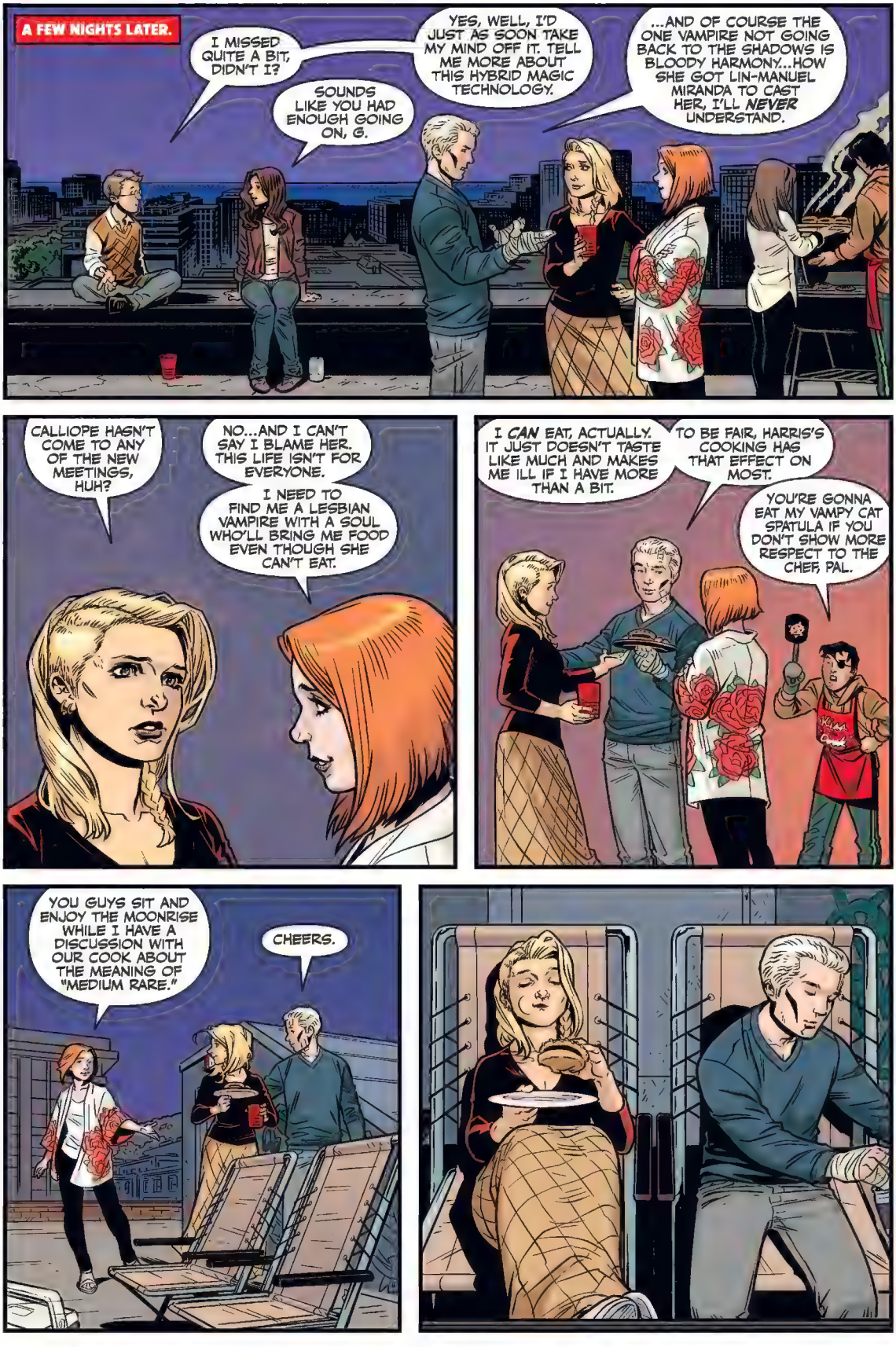

I'M NOT GONNA PRETEND WE'RE FRIENDS. BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE ENEMIES, EITHER.
THAT'S UP TO YOU. ALL OF YOU.
GOOD LUCK. I MEAN THAT.

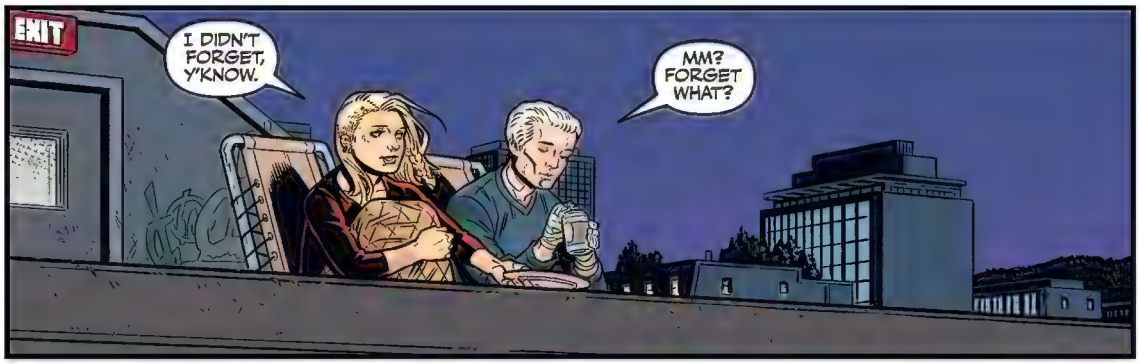
SURE YOU DID THE RIGHT THING THERE?
YEAH. THE POWER WAS TOO MUCH...I DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP IT. JUST BETWEEN US, I ALWAYS PLANNED TO GIVE IT BACK AFTER I'D HEALED.
I'M WITH YOU. SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE, NO ONE CAN HANDLE THAT LEVEL FOR LONG WITHOUT GOING A LITTLE NUTS.

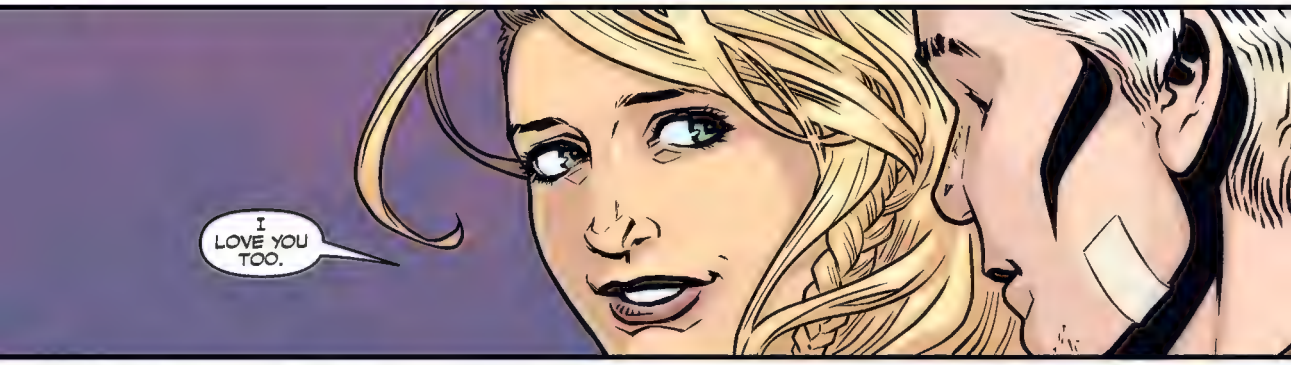
I DIDN'T MEAN THE POWER. TAKING ON THE MANTLE OF THE *CHOSEN ONE* AGAIN. THE WORLD'S PROTECTOR.
THAT'S CAUSED YOU PROBLEMS BEFORE. AND LIKE YOU SAID, IT AIN'T AS IF YOU HAVE TO.

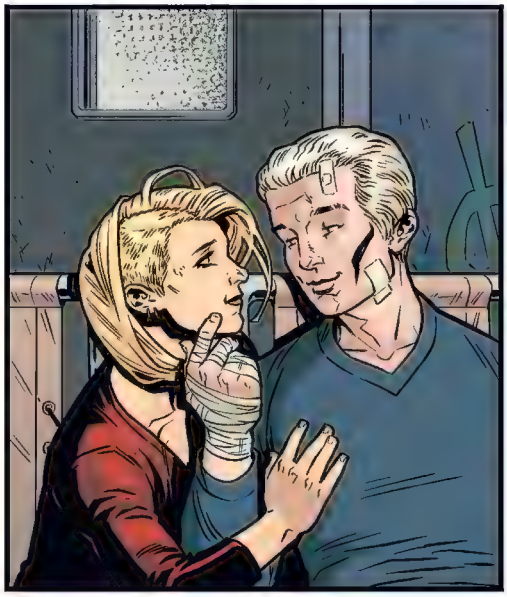

NAH. I KINDA DO.
I MEAN, YEAH, IT CAN BE SCARY AND STRESSFUL. BUT I DO PRETTY GOOD WITH SCARY AND STRESSFUL, DON'T I?
I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

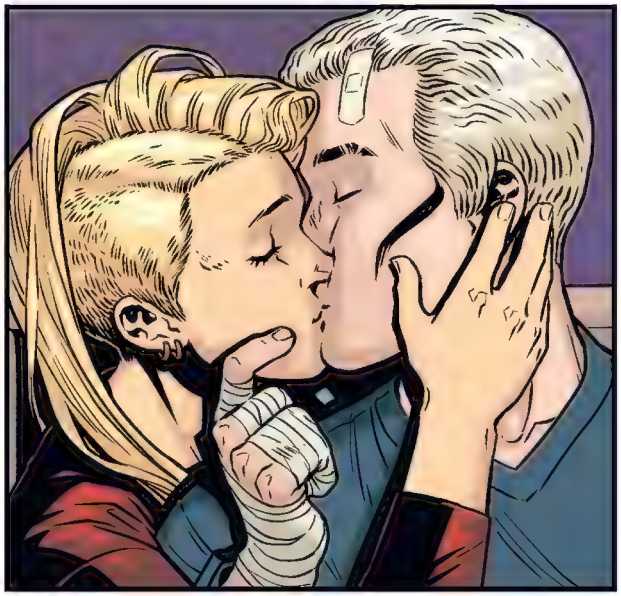

AND IT CAN ALSO BE WONDERFUL.
IT'S WHY I'VE GOT YOU.


A FEW NIGHTS LATER.
I MISSED QUITE A BIT, DIDN'T I?
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD ENOUGH GOING ON, G.
YES, WELL, I'D JUST AS SOON TAKE MY MIND OFF IT. TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS HYBRID MAGIC TECHNOLOGY.
...AND OF COURSE THE ONE VAMPIRE NOT GOING BACK TO THE SHADOWS IS BLOODY HARMONY...HOW SHE GOT LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA TO CAST HER, I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND.
CALLIOPE HASN'T COME TO ANY OF THE NEW MEETINGS, HUH?
NO...AND I CAN'T SAY I BLAME HER. THIS LIFE ISN'T FOR EVERYONE.
I NEED TO FIND ME A LESBIAN VAMPIRE WITH A SOUL WHO'LL BRING ME FOOD EVEN THOUGH SHE CAN'T EAT.
I CAN EAT, ACTUALLY. IT JUST DOESN'T TASTE LIKE MUCH AND MAKES ME ILL IF I HAVE MORE THAN A BIT.
TO BE FAIR, HARRIS'S COOKING HAS THAT EFFECT ON MOST.
YOU'RE GONNA EAT MY VAMPY CAT SPATULA IF YOU DON'T SHOW MORE RESPECT TO THE CHEF, PAL.
YOU GUYS SIT AND ENJOY THE MOONRISE WHILE I HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH OUR COOK ABOUT THE MEANING OF "MEDIUM RARE."
CHEERS.


EXIT
I DIDN'T FORGET, Y'KNOW.
MM? FORGET WHAT?


I LOVE YOU TOO.





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Joss Whedon is one of Hollywood's top creators, scripting several hit films including *Marvel's The Avengers*, which was a breakout success and became one of the highest grossing films of all time, and its sequel *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, and creating one of television's most critically praised shows, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. In 2000, Whedon garnered his first Emmy nomination in the category of Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series for his groundbreaking episode entitled "Hush," and he earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Screenplay with Disney's box-office smash *Toy Story*. Originally hailing from New York, Whedon is a third-generation television writer. His grandfather and father were both successful sitcom writers on shows such as *The Donna Reed Show*, *Leave It to Beaver*, and *The Golden Girls*.

New York Times bestselling author **Christos Gage** is a Writer's Guild Award-nominated writer with credits in multiple fields. He's written for television *(Daredevil* Season 1, *Law & Order: SVU, Hawaii Five-0)*, video games *(Spider-Man* for PS4, the all-time best selling superhero video game), comics *(Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Spider-Man, Avengers Academy)*, original graphic novels *(Area 10, Sunset)*, and movies *(The Breed)*. He often collaborates with his wife, Ruth Fletcher Gage.

Rebekah Isaacs lives in Queens, NY and has been illustrating comics since 2007. Her credits include *Buffy* Seasons 10 and 11, *Angel & Faith*, *DV8: Gods & Monsters*, *Hack/Slash*, and *Reaver*.

Georges Jeanty is an Eisner Award-winning, *New York Times* best selling comic book illustrator, working across the industry on books such as *Deadpool*, *Gambit*, *Batwoman*, and the critically acclaimed *The American Way* with screenwriter John Ridley. He's probably best known for his decade-long work on Joss Whedon's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Serenity*.

Megan Levens is an artist whose credits include *Angel City*, *Spell on Wheels*, *Star Trek*, and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

Dexter Vines is an Eisner Award-nominated and Inkwell Award-winning artist, and known for his ink work on *Buffy*. He has over 20 years of experience in the industry, having done work for most major comic publishers.

At the time of this printing, **Dan Jackson** has been coloring comics for over 22 years. Yep—crazy. He's happily done loads of Buffyverse stuff in that time, and isn't afraid to say that Rebekah Isaacs is his very favorite artist ever.

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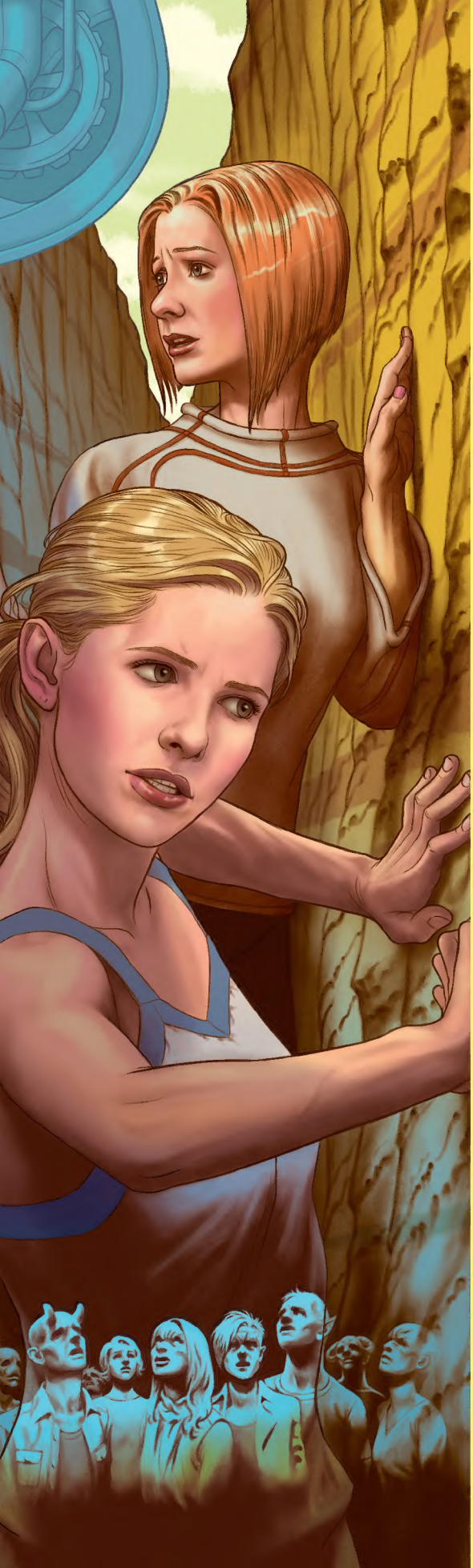

Buffy the Vampire Slayer™

THE COMPLETE SEASON 11 COLLECTED TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME

Buffy and the Scoobies weren't ready for this. When a tsunami and an enormous dragon devastate San Francisco, folks connected to the supernatural are blamed for causing the catastrophe and soon have restrictions placed on them in the name of safety. Buffy must choose sides, find a way for herself and her friends to survive, determine how the disaster happened, and not lose who she is in the process. But that's only the beginning of their problems as a shocking conspiracy is revealed that threatens all supernatural creatures...and may lead straight to the highest ranks of the US government!

Writer **Christos Gage** (*Amazing Spider-Man*) along with artists **Rebeckah Isaacs**, **Georges Jeanty**, and **Megan Levens** present the next chapter in the official continuation of **Joss Whedon's** award-winning television series.

Collects *Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 11 #1-12.*

"This arc has really been incredible both for fans who have been following the franchise's comic books and for fans of the show interested in jumping in."

—***Newsarama***

"...one of the most compelling story arcs I've ever gotten my nerdy little hands on."

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